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SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

SATURDAY.

GEN. CHANG'S MESSAGE TO SHANGHAI

Fengtien Leader's Assurance of Restoration of Order and Peaceful Intent: Appeal to Foreigners and Chinese

The "North-China Daily News" was last Friday asked by Gen. Chang Chung-chang, Commander-in-Chief of the First Fengtien Army, to publish the following statement:—

"Please tell the people of Shanghai, through the 'North-China Daily News,' that I have not brought my army here for any ulterior purpose or for further fighting and that there is no need whatsoever for them to be alarmed. We have come to maintain peace and to preserve order as well as to round up the remnants of the old Kiangsu Army which has been giving China so much trouble of late. We have come here to collect these defeated men and deserters because they are a constant menace to the safety of the people and to peace and order.

Rehabilitation of Shanghai

"When we have finished our work I hope to be able to persuade the Central Government and Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang (Tupan of Kiangsu) to issue an order for me to withdraw my men from Shanghai to the north. For the present we shall work for the rehabilitation of Shanghai and await further orders.

"Tell my foreign friends that it is my sincere hope to co-operate with them and trust that they will co-operate with me in the maintenance of peace and order, which is so essential to the peace of this part of China, the Settlements not excepted. Already I have received much assistance from the Municipal authorities and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I have many foreign friends, having met them wherever I have been and I have no doubt that I shall make many more acquaintances during my stay in Shanghai.

Reassurance for Chinese

"Will you also convey a message through your columns to my fellow Chinese citizens, especially those living in Chinese territory under my jurisdiction? Urge them not to be alarmed at the many false rumours circulated by interested, but unscrupulous persons, because we hope to build up a strong, reliable and honest government. Tell them to live in peace and to carry out their usual routine as there is absolutely nothing to be worried over. Tell the merchants to continue their business and not to be scared. If my troops give them any trouble, they have only to report to me and I will see that proper punishment is meted out to the offenders.

"I have not come here with warlike intentions and I hope that war has now ceased once and for all. Had it not been for the antagonistic attitude of Chi Hsieh-yuan and his original attack on my men we should never have fought. We tried to maintain peace but he tried to frustrate our efforts. However, the fighting is now over and I do not anticipate any more unless we are attacked, but we do not think there is any occasion for anybody to attack us as we are now all under the orders of the Central Government.

"We shall strain every effort to get along well with the people wherever we go and do not mean to antagonize them. Should there be Volunteers, Protectionary Forces and Police in the different districts we shall endeavour to co-operate with them. We are always at the service of the Chambers of Commerce and representative public organizations and we hope that they will draw our attention to any faults which we may have and give us their valued advice.

"Regarding the Arsenal, we shall act in accordance with the order of the Central Government and see that it is placed under the charge of the Chinese General and Shanghai District Chambers of Commerce. However, I cannot act until I receive definite orders from Peking regarding its disposal. I hope to see the Arsenal removed from Shanghai altogether or transformed into an industrial works. I hope that the troops here may be withdrawn in as short a time as possible and that the district may be placed under the civil administration. Thus we may hope to see the bottom of Shanghai's troubles uprooted and destroyed once and for all.

"All disbanded troops will be gathered together, given sufficient money, clothing and food, and repatriated.

"Orders have been issued to the members of our army forbidding the impressing of labourers into military service. This has been a fault in the past and we hope to rectify it in the future.

"I hope all merchants will be honest in their dealings, and not raise the prices of their goods. A fair price must be fixed on each article and must be adhered to. No attempt to squeeze will be tolerated and steps will be taken to punish who disobey this order."

SHANGHAI TO BECOME SPECIAL AREA

Government Plan to Place Administration Under Tupan Responsible to Peking

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Peking, Jan. 30.

Now that the military situation has been cleared up the government has decided, I understand, to make Shanghai into a special administrative area under control of a Tupan. This is intended to prevent any further inter-provincial rivalry for direct or indirect jurisdiction over Shanghai.

Having come to this decision, a committee is now engaged in studying the question of future boundaries of the new area—whether to adhere to the limits set under the old Defence Commissionership or to carve out an entirely new zone. The chief merit of the project is that the Tupan will be responsible solely to the Government in Peking. It is interesting to note that this is a harking back to Yuan Shih-kai's original idea when he first created the Defence Commissionership. The Government hopes by the appointment of a Tupan whose affiliation is solely with the Central Government that the problem of Chinese administration in Shanghai will be solved once for all.

There is no indication as yet who will be appointed to the Tupanship, but it is felt that the office should be given to a man strong enough to resist any influence that might be brought to bear on him from either Hangchow or Nanking.

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT SICCAWEI

Arrival of Russian Troops and Rounding-up of Stragglers: Lunghua Rumours

The state of affairs around Siccawei has now returned to something of a normal order. The borders of the Siccawei Creek have been well fortified with barbed wire entanglements and the barricades are still in position.

On January 29 at about 5 p.m. a train carrying about 50 of the Russian troops arrived at Siccawei station. Here they disembarked, occupying the station and lighting a large fire which was seen for a considerable portion of the night. Last Friday morning a train of about a dozen carriages conveyed these troops along the line to Lunghua Junction after they had rounded up a few stragglers. A few shots were fired during the morning but no attempt was made to oust the troops of Sun Chuan-fang from the Arsenal.

A large number of refugees left Lunghua village, possibly on account of rumours of the approach of the Russians. About 700 sought refuge in the Siccawei convent, most of the refugees who were there before having left.

Lunghua itself is still occupied by a small garrison of General Sun Chuan-fang but no important officials are in residence, and altogether the place seems to have little activity. As to the civilian population of the village they have almost completely fled and what few shops there are have put up their shutters. In comparison with the customary busy bustle of soldiers and hawkers, Lunghua has more the appearance of having been stricken with the plague. This is either due to fear of fresh activities or the current rumour that Sun Chuan-fang's men intend to blow up the Arsenal.

Cars of All Sorts

Shanghai North Station is once more crowded with troops and most of the platforms are occupied with troop trains. About a score of mules were to be seen last Friday morning lined up on one platform. It is interesting to note that practically every railway line in China is represented in the collection of wagons which are now to be seen. Several iron vans of Peking-Mukden line are present as well as a number bearing the letters T. P. There are one or two wagons from the Peking-Hankow Railway and even one from the Peking-Suiyuan Railway, not to mention a representative of some obscure line entitled S. C. Railway. It is evident that a large number of carriages and trucks have been ferried across the Yangtze.

Passenger Service

In spite of the fact that the Shanghai North Station is closely guarded by the Fengtien troops, there was a large crowd there last Friday, the majority being intending passengers to Nanking and other places along the line, a trial train leaving for the provincial capital at noon. This was expected to arrive at its destination shortly before midnight last night.

The train service to Woosung was continued satisfactorily, and a number of empty trains were sent to Soochow to transport the defeated troops of Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan to Shanghai.

As the Shanghai South Station is being occupied by Gen. Sun Chuan-fang's men as a temporary headquarters and as the section of the Shanghai-Hangchow line between Shanghai and Lunghua is not open to ordinary traffic, the through service on that line has been suspended.

A number of troop trains on the Shanghai-Nanking line arrived in Shanghai from up the line.

About 1,000 of Gen. Chang Chung-chang's Fengtien troops have been sent over to Lunghua and about 3,000 have been despatched to Woosung. Gen. Chang's men are still controlling Wusih and Soochow and most of his local troops have been concentrated at the Markham Road Junction. Russian troops, numbering about 1,000, are also occupying Nanziang.

CHI'S BEATEN ARMY AT SOOCHOW

Stragglers Rounded up by Fengtien Troops: The City Gets off Lightly

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Soochow, Jan. 29, 1925.

My telegram yesterday morning about summed up our local situation. Beginning on Sunday night Chi's disorganized troops began to straggle into Soochow. The city gates were closed tight, sand bags were piled against them, and guards placed along the entire wall. Special guards were also placed between the Chang Mên and Chi Mên suburbs and the railway station. All day on Monday and on Monday night Chi's troops were pouring in. These men were fed and treated well by the Chamber of Commerce, and on Tuesday several hundreds of them were sent on by launch; thousands continuing down the line by train. Only a few stragglers were left about the suburbs by Tuesday night and none were able to get within the city. The Fengtien troops began arriving at 11.30 on Tuesday, and since that time they have been running down Chi's stragglers, not only here but further down the line to Shanghai. These men are real soldiers with real discipline and well equipped.

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The Russian troops and their officers also show up quite well. Some of these Russians were overhauling the locomotives and the guns. There are several armoured cars with these troops. General Chang, one of Chang Tso-lin's generals is in command here.

It is said that Chi *secured* (or robbed) Soochow of about $45,000. When he went to Wusih the first time he demanded $100,000 and secured about $30,000. On his first return visit he secured another $10,000, and lastly when he arrived on Monday night(leaving Soochow at 4 a.m. Tuesday) he demanded $50,000 and secured $5,000. If these statements are true, all in all, Soochow has escaped very lightly. There has been very little looting and not a great many holdups. A great deal of praise is due to the Chamber of Commerce for handling matters so well and also at all times keeping the city well provisioned, and allowing very little profiteering in foodstuffs. The country people and the town to the east of Soochow must now be suffering a great deal for Chi's disorganized, cowardly, looting rabble has scattered over a wide area.

It is hoped the city gates will open this afternoon.

GENERAL CHANG CHUNG-CHANG, COMMANDING THE FENGTIEN ARMY

A SKETCH OF GEN. CHANG CHUNG-CHANG

Commander-in-Chief of Chang Tso-lin's Armies and Now in Control of Shanghai: Romantic Early History: Idolized by Troops—

NOTWITHSTANDING HIS IRON DISCIPLINE

BY S. G. HORNIBLOW

A week ago the name of Chang Chung-chang meant little or nothing to the Shanghai public. To-day the appearances all go to suggest that he is destined to play a most important part in the history of this Settlement. It rests entirely with him, for instance, as to whether or not the Arsenal shall be destroyed and re-built elsewhere or allowed to remain. If, as it at present appears, he is willing to have the Arsenal removed, the effect will be to take from Shanghai one of the principal causes of war which threaten it. He has now supreme command of some 60,000 well trained, well disciplined Fengtien and Russian soldiers, all within a few hours distance of this district. He can do practically what he chooses, and he has the reputation of being a fearless man and even a firebrand. He can do untold damage with the forces at his disposal. In Nanking it has been freely said that he, and not Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang, was the true dictator of the Marshal's policy in the field.

He is worshipped by both officers and men, and from general to private has a remarkable reputation for gallantry. That he is a strong man there can be no doubt, and that he rules his forces with a rod of iron is obvious to any one who has seen as much of them as the writer. The one thing he lacks is a higher education, and the ability successfully to engage in political intrigues. One might compliment him on this, but it is the one cause most likely to bring about his ultimate downfall.

General Chang's history is a remarkable one. His earlier story is obscure, but it is popularly believed that he was the son of humble parents, and at a very early age earned his own living in practically a coolie capacity. The life was too slow for a fiery spirit such as his, and it is generally agreed that he graduated into the ranks of banditry (when such was a more or less recognized, if not honourable calling) and soon rose to great heights in this excellent profession. His depredations were confined to the Russian border and into Russian territory, and were always successful. The Russians offered him a commission in their army, and he rose to the rank of captain, putting in honourable service for his former victims in the Russo-Japanese War. He left the Russian Army to join the ranks of the revolutionaries in his own country, and was one of the most active participants in the Revolution. It was after the capture of Nanking that he was made a general, after which he entered the ranks of Chang Tso-lin's army, performing wonders for his new chief in the war against Wu Pei-fu. He fought in this campaign as a general of division, and was later promoted to the commandership of the 1st Fengtien Army. Now he holds the position of Commander-in-Chief of all the Fengtien troops.

Valour in Action

Prodigious stories are told of his valour in action, and the principal reason he is so popular with his men is that in battle he leads them personally, from the front and not from the rear. His officers state that his attitude under fire is one of supreme indifference or contempt. He has the reputation of being totally lacking in political ambition, and generous to the point of foolishness where money is concerned. His arrival in Shanghai was followed yesterday by the advent of the first through train from Nanking, filled for the most part with hangers-on and position-hunters. These men were avowedly following him to his destination for that purpose. Fortunately, according to his reputation, he is proof against flattery.

Peace Negotiations with Sun

Meanwhile, General Wu Kuang-hsin, Minister of War, and brother-in-law to Tuan Chi-jui, is bound for Shanghai from Nanking to meet General Sun Chuan-fang and arrange with him terms for a separate peace.

I secured an interview with General Wu on this subject before he left Nanking, and found him jubilant as to his prospects of coming to some agreement with Sun.

General Wu was in Nanking some days, in close conference with Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang on the same subject. He told me that telegrams were exchanged between himself and Sun, the result of which was that on Wednesday morning he received a wire from Sun urging General Wu to meet him in Shanghai. The telegram intimated that Sun had withdrawn all his troops into Chêkiang province, and General Wu, in his conversation with me, stressed the point that up to that time no shots had been fired by Chêkiang soldiers. Then nothing was known of the action at Ihsing.

I asked General Wu what terms the Government were prepared to offer Sun, and received the reply that he would be allowed to keep all his present titles on condition that he agreed to drop hostilities against Government forces.

War Not Desired

Questioned as to how far the Government would go in pressing war into the provinces of Kiangsu and Chêkiang, the General said they did not wish to make war in those provinces at all if it could be helped. They did not want the people to suffer more than necessary, and if Kiangsu had suffered it was entirely due to Marshal Chi, who had forced the Government troops into fighting.

I put it to the Minister that Chi claimed that the people of Kiangsu were in his favour, and supported him against any attempt at invasion of their province by a Fengtien army.

To this the reply was that far from supporting Chi in this respect, the Kiangsu people would welcome the Fengtien forces for the good they would do in driving out the Kiangsu soldiers, who were simply robbers and bandits.

MONDAY.

LOCAL MILITARY SITUATION

Late Combatants Keeping Out of One Another's Way

The local military situation, following the arrival in Shanghai of Gen. Chang Chung-chang, at a late hour on Sunday night gave no cause for alarm. Soldiers of the rival camps kept out of one another's way and no armed skirmishes resulted. Rumours pointed to a definite move on the part of Gen. Chang to dominate at least the northern and western sides of Shanghai, indicated very clearly by the story that the Russian troops had been moved to Siccawei station. The two armoured trains with full complements were still at Shanghai North at a late hour. There were no guards at the bridge crossing Siccawei Creek and no soldiers were met until within 250 yards of the yamên formerly occupied by Gen. Ho Feng-lin. Further troops were encountered, a dozen in number, at the main gate, and at the station beyond the pagoda, where five or six loafed about.

The Shanghai North Station had almost lost its wartime aspect. Two troop trains, however, were still there and three platoons who were drilling. Many of the Fengtien troops had moved to Kiangwan or had occupied Woosung. The former enemies, soldiers of the defeated Marshal Chi, had been, or were in the process of being rounded up.

It appears that Gen. Chang is contented to permit, at least for the time being, his troops to remain at Soochow, with the majority in reserve at Nanking.

No reinforcements arrived in Shanghai over the week-end and train service between Shanghai and the provincial capital, though not as sure and speedy as four months ago, gave promise of an early return to normal conditions. Both up and down passenger trains were running on Sunday.

PEACE OUTLOOK ROUND SHANGHAI

Brighter to All Appearances Than for Long Time: Sun Chuan-fang Bargaining with Chang Chung-chang: Invitation to Conference at Lunghua

The prospects of a lasting peace in and around Shanghai, and in the provinces of Kiangsu and Chêkiang generally, appear brighter now than they have been for months. Sun Chuan-fang of Chêkiang is anxious for a peaceful settlement if he can achieve it without loss of face; the Government are equally anxious, and negotiations are far advanced along these desirable lines.

Marshal Wu Kuang-hsin, Minister for War, has been in Shanghai now for two days, during which time he has spent many hours in conference with Sun Chuan-fang's representative. As already stated by the "North-China Daily News," Marshal Wu arrived here on the invitation of Sun. Both parties have placed their cards on the table, and the last word is now awaited from Sun Chuan-fang.

Major-General C. S. Ting, a member of Marshal Wu's staff and one of his advisers, in conversation with a "North-China Daily News" representative on Sunday, outlined the position more or less as follows.

Withdrawal of Troops Demanded

Marshal Wu's offer on behalf of the Government is: Sun may retain his rank as Tupan of Chêkiang provided he will withdraw all his troops from Kiangsu province, and agree to drop all hostilities against the Government. Sun agrees to this, but first insists that General Chang Chung-chang shall withdraw his troops from Shanghai, and take his whole army back to Nanking. Marshal Wu expresses himself as agreeable to this course, but points out that the Fengtien troops must remain in Shanghai and district for some time yet in order to round up the remainder of Chi's defeated army, put down all looting, and generally clean up the mess which is the natural consequence of a war such as this last. Also, before the Fengtien troops move, Sun Chuan-fang must take away his troops from the Kiangnan Arsenal.

Tupan Sun has been notified of this offer, and was invited by telegram to come to Shanghai and meet Marshal Wu here, in order that the details might be finally settled. Sun replied that it would suit him better if Marshal Wu would meet him in Chêkiang, and arrange the details in that province.

Sun's reason for this appears to be suspicion. He is afraid that in coming here he would be putting his head into the lion's mouth, and prefers to conduct all personal negotiations on his own ground.

Marshal Wu despatched a further telegram informing Sun that he would receive every consideration, and that Wu would be quite prepared to meet him in the Kiangnan Arsenal itself, where he would have the protection of his own men.

At the time of writing no reply had been received.

Promise to Remove Arsenal

Marshal Wu definitely states, that as far as it is in the power of the Government to do so, the Kiangnan Arsenal will be removed from Shanghai altogether to a city named Chuchowfu, situated some 500 li from Shanghai. Stress was laid on the point that the Government are most anxious that Shanghai should be freed from all menace of fighting on and around her borders. General Ting stated that this was one of Marshal Wu's principal objects in coming to Shanghai.

Questioned with regard to the neutral zone to be made round Shanghai, Gen. Ting stated both Lu Yung-hsiang and Sun Chuan-fang had expressed their complete willingness to make that zone a radius of 30 li. Before anything could be done, however, the province of Kiangsu had to be rid of Chi's army.

Sun's Objection to Troops

In view of the above reported peace negotiations the following circular telegram issued by Sun Chuan-fang and published in the Chinese papers on Sunday, is interesting:—

"After the retreat of Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan at Wusih, he declared that he would have nothing further to do with politics and, in accordance with the orders of the Central Government, I have been trying to gather up his defeated troops and to repatriate them. It was my hope to secure peace and act up to the peaceful intentions of the Central Government. However, Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang's troops continue to pour into this section of the country and I am unable to conceive what his real intentions are. Now is the time for all to carry out the orders of the Central Government to withdraw all troops from Shanghai, Sungkiang and Woosung. If anybody declares the use of military force in obtaining Shanghai as a military base, would it not be contrary to the orders of the Central Government. Would the Central Government be respected? The argument might be advanced that the troops have come to force Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan to leave, but now what can they say since Marshal Chi has left Shanghai and all his troops have been scattered? From these facts we can see that the coming of the Fengtien troops is apparently for some ulterior purpose, because it would be useless for them to waste time and money in sending such an enormous army to Shanghai. If Marshal Lu declares war against me I will defend myself. I will not take the aggressive, hence the people should know who is responsible in case of trouble."

Gen. Sun is also said to have telegraphed to Marshal Tuan Chi-jui urging him to withdraw the Fengtien troops at once to avoid all unpleasantness. Should the Fengtien army continue to come this way, he can do nothing else but take preparations to defend his people.

TUESDAY.

CHEKIANG TUCHUN HOLDING OUT

Relying on Fengtien General's Unwillingness to Fight to Get Best Possible Terms: Not Coming to Shanghai: Northern Troops' Good Behaviour

Little progress has been made in the negotiations between Marshal Wu Kuang-hsing and Gen. Chang Chung-chang with General Sun Chuan-fang, of Chêkiang, for a peaceful settlement of the latter's dispute with Lu Yung-hsiang. Sun Chuan-fang still refuses to be lured out of the security of his own province to confer with the Government representatives in Shanghai, and they in turn refuse to go to meet him at Hangchow. Wu Kuang-hsin and Chang Chung-chang on Sunday despatched a personal representative to Sun at Hangchow in the hope that this individual might have better luck in persuading the refractory general to come to Shanghai than they have had.

Meanwhile Sun Chuan-fang has despatched a number of urgent telegrams to the Peking Government, justifying his own position and urging that Chang Chung-chang be given instructions to withdraw his troops from Shanghai at once. He points out that Chi has run away, his army has been beaten, and therefore there is no reason at all why the Fengtien troops should remain in this part of the world.

General Chang Chung-chang and Marshal Wu, in turn, reiterate that they must remain here to clear up matters in Shanghai and round up the defeated troops. When that task is completed, they say, the Fengtien troops will be withdrawn.

Lu as War Minister?

Rumours are now current that Chang Chung-chang is to be given the Tupanship of Kiangsu province and that Marshal Wu Kuan-hsin is to be made Civil Governor. Marshal

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Wu's present position as Minister of War, so it is said, will be given to Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang. Marshal Lu has once again tendered his resignation as Tupan and Pacification Commissioner of Kiangsu. The separate post of Tupan of Shanghai, so it is said, is to be given to Tseng Yu-tsen, former Minister of Finance and a strong Anfuite.

In the meantime the Fengtien soldiers remain in and around Shanghai. To their credit, they have so far behaved admirably. Little is to be seen of them in Chapei and the Native City, and their officers appear to keep them well under control. Strong guards are posted all round the North Station, where Chang Chung-chang is making his headquarters in a special train, and the men seem to be taking care to keep things there more or less tidy and shipshape.

The only thing these troops are doing which leaves rather an unpleasant taste in the mouth of the foreigner, is that they are searching every foreigner who attempts to enter the station, yet allow Chinese to pass through unmolested. This looks very much like discrimination against the foreigner for the pettiest of reasons.

No Further Trouble Expected

While reports have been circulated to the effect that Gen. Sun Chuan-fang is digging trenches in preparation for warfare with the Fengtien forces, the indications are that further warfare in this section of the country is improbable.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui has telegraphed to Gen. Chang Chung-chang pointing out that as Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan's army has been broken up and scattered, there is no necessity for him to advance further into Kiangsu. Gen. Sun has telegraphed to Marshal Tuan once more asking him to order Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang and Gen. Chang to advance no further, otherwise there might be trouble.

We understand that Gen. Chang has replied to Marshal Tuan saying that he does not intend to fight unless he is attacked, and as a sign of good faith he says that he is sending the major portion of his troops away from Shanghai to Ihsing for protectionary purposes. He states that he has come to Shanghai under orders from the Government to drive out Chi and to gather up the latter's forces and repatriate them, and when he has completed this work and the rehabilitation of Shanghai, he hopes to be able to obtain permission to return to the north. He has not come here to fight; if he had he would have taken over the Lunghua Arsenal and yamên long ago.

Closing the Arsenal

A conference of military representatives and members of the Chamber was held on Monday at the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, and it is said that there are, in consequence, hopes of a general settlement in the near future.

General Wu Kuang-hsing, Minister of War, General Chang Chung-chang, and General Wang, chief of staff to General Sun Chuan-fang, of Chêkiang, were in attendance.

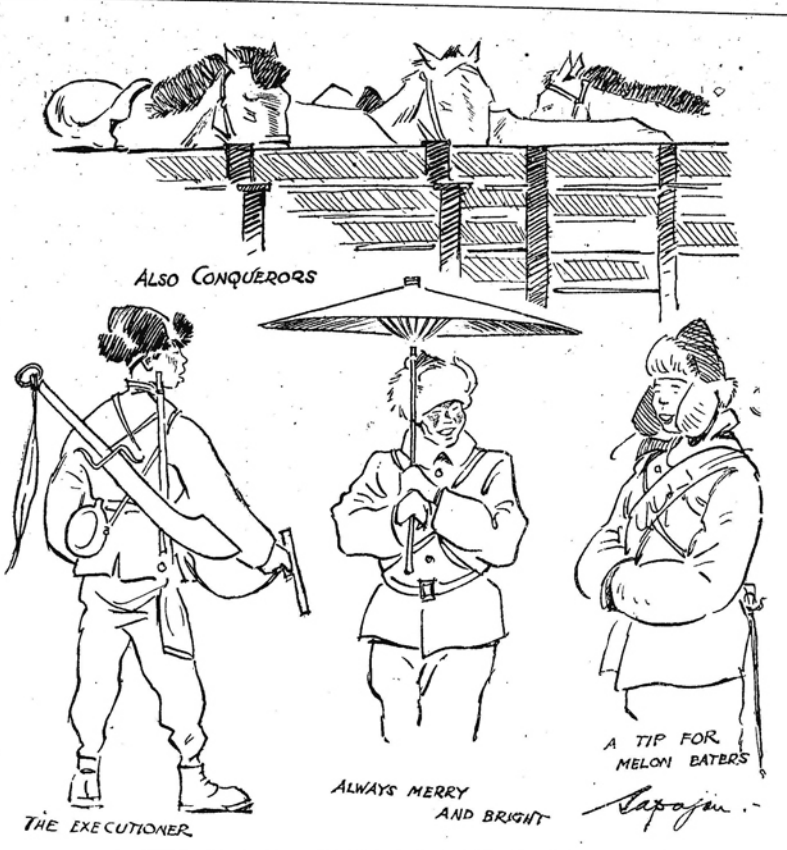
General Wang intimated that, acting on instructions from his chief, he had ordered cessation of work at Lunghua Arsenal, which will close to-day. All the Chêkiang troops, it is added, are to be withdrawn forthwith.

WEN SHIH-TSEN PROSCRIBED

Peking, Jan. 31.

A further mandate issued last night says that Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, the Foreign Commissioner at Shanghai, and Mr. Tao Chia-yao, Tupan of the Kiukiang Post Administration, are involved in Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan's recent intrigues. They are therefore deprived of their offices and decorations, and ordered to be arrested, and tried.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, former Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, "left for the south" by the str. President Lincoln on Saturday morning. How long he will remain away has not been disclosed.



A MORNING WITH THE FENGTIEN TROOPS IN CHAPEI

WEDNESDAY.

PEACE WITH CHEKIANG TUCHUN

All Troops to Be Withdrawn on Both Sides: Kiangnan Arsenal to Be Closed and Handed to Chamber of Commerce: Shanghai Area to Be Demilitarized

General Chang Chung-chang, commanding the Fengtien troops in Kiangsu, drove round Shanghai on Tuesday, calling on the members of the Consular Body, the Chairman of the Council and the Commissioner of Police.

He informed them all that peace had been definitely arranged with General Sun Chuan-fang of Chêkiang.

Troops on both sides are to be withdrawn, the Kiangnan Arsenal is to be handed over to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and steps are being taken permanently to demilitarize the Shanghai area.

With the above news, there is a general feeling among those responsible for Shanghai's security that the outlook is more stable and tranquil than it has been for several months past. General Chang, who was dressed in full uniform and accompanied by his Chief of Staff, made a very good impression on all his callers. Immensely tall and broad his manner is at once pleasant and authoritative, and his sincerity could not for a moment be in question.

With some details to be filled in, the general tenour of the news he brought was most satisfactory.

Peace has been arranged between him and General Sun Chuan-fang of Chêkiang on the basis that both sides shall withdraw their troops from Shanghai. General Sun's forces, which are at present in occupation of Kiangnan Arsenal, are evidently to go back into Chêkiang at once, as part of General Chang Chung-chang's information is that the Arsenal is to be closed and handed over to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday.

General Chang has a great deal of work still to do in cleaning up the district, restoring order, repatriating Marshal Chi's troops, etc. But his troops will be withdrawn bit by bit as quickly as possible, and ultimately will all be removed from Kiangsu. Indeed a number have already left Shanghai.

One important requisite is the establishment of some kind of Military Court to take the place of the one that used to function at Lunghua and to which armed robbers convicted at the Mixed Court can be sent. This idea has been put before General Chang and will doubtless bear fruit shortly.

General Chang stated emphatically that it is the fixed intention of Peking to demilitarize the Shanghai area. All troops and military equipment, etc., are to be taken away, and Peking means ultimately to appoint a Director-General for Shanghai, who shall be a civilian.

Chinese Press Reports

Marshal Chang Tso-lin, according to the Chinese papers, wishes to interfere with the local situation as little as possible. He is reported to have telegraphed to Marshal Tuan Chi-jui to the effect that Tuan may appoint Marshal Wu Kuang-hsin Civil Governor of Kiangsu, and General Chang Chung-chang Military Governor if he wishes. Marshal Chang personally wishes to have no hand in the matter as he does not want to be held responsible for further wars. The Peking Government, therefore, have decided to replace Lu with General Chang (so the report continues), but await a more favourable opportunity before publishing a mandate to that effect.

General Sun Chuan-fang's troops are reported to have broken the railway bridge at Siccawei, and to have torn up the line at this point, as some safeguard against any possible advance towards Chêkiang by Fengtien troops. The Central Government have sent him a telegram instructing him to repair the damage, his reply being that he would do so only when he was assured that the Fengtien Army would not open hostilities against him.

According to the "Chinese Journal of Commerce" the Peking Government have ordered the recall of Marshal Wu Kuang-hsin. All the hotels in Chapei have been commandeered by the military for use as headquarters for the 1st Fengtien Army.

Celebrating the Settlement

A report reached us on Tuesday night that Gen. Sun Chuan-fang had arrived in Shanghai to discuss personally with Gen. Chang Chung-chang and Gen. Wu Kuang-hsin the question of the withdrawal of all local troops and the transformation of Shanghai into a special area, as well as the handing over of the Arsenal to the care of the merchants.

The General Committee of the Shanghai Street Unions have ordered their members to fly their flags for three days to celebrate the ending of the Arsenal as a military factory.

More than 40 Chinese public organizations gave a dinner on Tuesday in honour of the two Fengtien generals now in Shanghai.

THE YOUNG GENERAL AND HIS FATHER

No Differences of Opinion Nor Ambition for Throne

"The Fengtien Army is a national one and is doing its best to strengthen the foundations of the Chinese Republic. Gen. Chang Hsiao-liang (son of Marshal Chang Tso-lin), who is Commander-in-Chief of the Third Fengtien Army, is not as selfish as many paint him. The suggestion that he is trying to make himself Emperor with his father as Regent and that he does not agree with his father and his colleagues is pure nonsense and is not to be believed. There is nothing at all to substantiate such allegations."—These words were spoken by a high official connected with Gen. Chang Hsiao-liang in the course of an interview on Tuesday with a representative of the "North-China Daily News."

In reply to our reporter's question regarding the report that Gen. Chang was aspiring to the throne our informant said that he did not believe that there would ever be a restoration of the monarchy in China. The course of events had proved that the tide of public opinion was against it. A monarchy could not stand in China even if it were restored. Such rumour had no doubt been circulated by Gen. Chang's enemies.

The speaker went on to say that there was absolutely no difference between the young general and his father or with his colleagues. They were all of the one aim, namely, to make the army a success and the country better and stronger. They all hoped for unification by peaceful methods and did not desire to use force to bring about national unity.

The speaker said he was sorry to see that most of the papers in Shanghai were subsidized and remarked that they made themselves organs of propaganda for one side or the other. He complimented the "North-China Daily News" on standing neutral and said that he hoped all other papers would stop accepting subsidies and be frank in their opinions like the "North-China Daily News" which, he hoped, would continue to criticize when necessary and give praise when praise was called for.

Gen. Chang Chung-chang would withdraw his troops in the very near future, we were told, and Shanghai would shortly be completely rehabilitated. Our informant could not say whether Gen. Chang would be appointed Tupan of Kiangsu or not, as he had not heard.

THURSDAY.

CLOSING OF KIANGNAN ARSENAL

Fifty Years in Shanghai: An Invention of Viceroy Tseng Kuo-fan: Great Guns and Little It Has Made: The Glory Departed: Why Not Now a Factory to Build Railway Rolling Stock

In all of the civil wars which have raged for and about Shanghai during the past half century, the cry of the combatants has been that they were fighting for possession of the Kiangnan Arsenal. That excuse will serve no longer. Yesterday the Arsenal was officially closed and handed over to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, for that body to arrange, with the co-operation of the Central Government, for its removal to a different part of the province, so, at least, it is generally understood. The name of the Kiangnan Arsenal is familiar probably to every foreigner in Shanghai, yet how many people have a really definite idea of the structure, its size, purposes and power of production?

The arsenal was established in Shanghai well over 50 years ago; the original arsenal was in Nanking, and the scheme for removing it to Shanghai emanated from the brains of the powerful Viceroy Tseng Kuo-fan and the yet more famous Li Hung-chang. The Imperial Government at that time was seized with a craze for a modern army well equipped with heavy artillery, with the result that the Kiangnan Arsenal was built to manufacture anything from a Mauser pistol to a 12-inch gun, and actually has manufactured several of these colossal weapons, as illustrated here. These works, built by Mr. N. E. Cornish (who is in Shanghai still) at the order of the Imperial Government, have equipped most of the forts in China. To-day, however, the guns are obsolete, and though they fire a huge shell which can inflict terrible damage if it strikes anything, they could be out-ranged by the guns on even the smallest of foreign men-of-war in Chinese waters.

But where the Arsenal has proved really useful has been in the manufacture of rifles and pistols for equipping the various armies who have had control of it, together with the necessary ammunition. Included in the arsenal is a large and fairly well equipped rifle factory, originally designed for making the old Remington rifle, and afterwards used for the manufacture of the single-shot Mauser, later the 7.9 m.m. Mauser and more recently what is known as the Chinese 6.8 m.m. Mauser. Additions have been made to the original plant from time to time, but no great thought has been given to economy of manufacture with the result that a large number of workmen have been required to turn out a comparatively small number of rifles.

Another most useful department of the arsenal has been the Gun Factory, which contains a consider-

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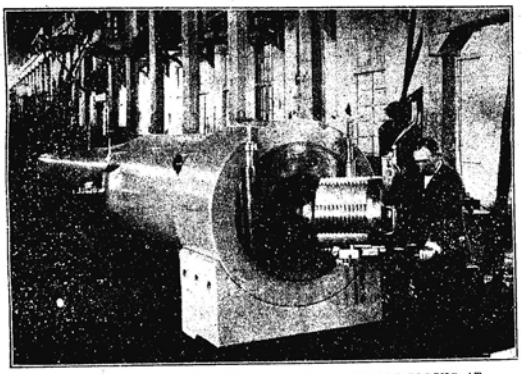
able amount of valuable machinery, and is capable of producing several batteries of field guns per annum. During the last fighting the guns turned out by this branch of the Arsenal have proved most useful, particularly the small mountain guns and the larger field guns, six-pounders, etc.

It was not many years after the establishment of the Arsenal that it began to fall into neglect, and for several years a period of chaos set in. Directorship of the Arsenal was simply looked upon by the men who held it as the final stepping-stone to the Taotaiship of Shanghai. Most of the directors knew little or nothing of their business as far as the arsenal was concerned, and often enough their ignorance was equalled by that of their subordinates. Consequently, though work was done somehow or other, it was not done efficiently and there has been a considerable waste. Experts estimate that the Arsenal has cost the Government something like Tls.20,000,000 since its establishment.

There seems to be some idea at present of removing the Arsenal to Hsuchowfu in the north of Kiangsu. To do this will cost the Chamber of Commerce, or whoever else is to bear the cost, a tremendous amount of money, if the job is to be done properly, running into millions. Much of the heavier machinery is built into solid platforms of concrete.

Mr. N. E. Cornish, who probably knows more about the Arsenal than any man living, Chinese or foreign, in the course of conversation with a "North-China Daily News" representative, suggested that the most useful place to take the arsenal from Shanghai would be back to Nanking, where the old arsenal remains to be built upon; as an alternative he suggested Kiangyin. Mr. Cornish went on to suggest that the most useful purpose to which the premises could be put, from a commercial point of view, would be the building of rolling stock. He points out that China is very short of stock, and the Arsenal would be an ideal place in which to build it by reason of its nearness to the railway, and the fact of its being in Shanghai where all the fittings from abroad could be easily obtained and unloaded at the Kiangnan Dock itself.

Mr. Cornish also pointed out that to a large extent the Arsenal was useless, inasmuch as arms were smuggled into China in such great quantities as to make it cheaper to buy from abroad than to manufacture at home.



DISABLED KRUPP GUNS FITTED WITH NEW BREECH BLOCKS AT KIANGNAN ARSENAL

HANDING OVER TO CHINESE MERCHANTS

Upon going to the Lunghua branch of the Shanghai Arsenal on Wednesday to witness the handing over of the Arsenal to the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce a "North-China Daily News" representative found most of the factories still in operation and a number of workers were seen strolling about, their badges, however, being plainly visible. The yamên formerly occupied by the local military chief was empty and deserted, but for a few coolies. Papers, including a number of appointment certificates in the name of Chang Yuan-ming, were strewn all over the place and a few of the windows had been broken. Some of the mosquito netting, as well as the door plates, signifying the offices of different officials, had been pulled down and thrown about. The many tablets of honour presented to the different military chiefs still kept their places. On the road from Lunghua to the head office of the Arsenal, all automobiles were held up and the occupants questioned closely as to their business.

The official batch of Chamber of Commerce delegates, who were to have arrived at 1 o'clock, came in at 3.40 p.m., five minutes after the arrival of Gen. Wu Kuang-hsin, Minister of War, who is a brother-in-law of the Chief Executive, Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, and who was greeted with a bugle salute.

Among those present were Gen. Yang Pang-fan (Director of the Arsenal), Col. Wang Shen-tin, representing Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, Gen. Liu Wen-ming, Director of the Hanyang Arsenal, Mr. Kuang Yuh-chin, representing Marshal Tuan, Mr. Fang Shao-pah, acting Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Fu Siao-en, Mr. Zia Hung-chong, Mr. Wang I-ding, Mr. Loh Pah-hong (committee members), Mr. K. S. Zee, general secretary of the Chamber, and a score of other civilians representing the two Chambers, the General and District, and other Chinese public organizations. Gen. Chang Chung-chang, the Fengtien leader, was not officially represented. He said that Gen. Wu was quite capable of handing over the Arsenal to the merchants without his interference.

The Soldiers Reluctantly Go

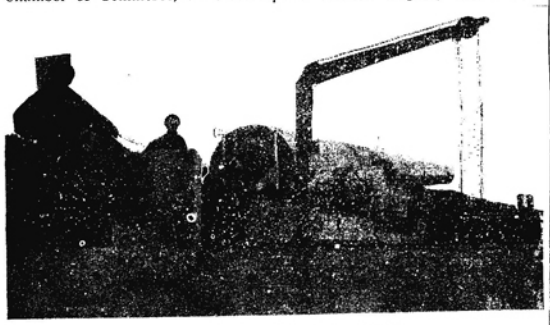
There was no ceremony, merely a general inspection of three factories and the machinery. Some of the latter had evidently been damaged, while attempts had plainly been made to move some of the rifle-manufacturing machinery. Ropes had been tied round a couple of the machines which had been moved near the door, later, it was said, to be sent to Hangchow. There were also a number of empty boxes for the packing of rifles. These were quite new and, it appeared, had never been used before. The appearance of the whole Arsenal, as well as our representative's chats with the Chêkiang officers, indicated that Gen. Sun Chuan-fang was very reluctant to leave. In fact, some of the men said that they were not going to leave the Arsenal until they had been paid in full and the money paid by Gen. Sun for improvements and repairs, as well as for his soldiers killed during the fight with Gen. Chang Yuan-ming.

However, they did not carry out their threat, for when the proceedings terminated two hours later, these men had been withdrawn or were being withdrawn and Volunteers and members of the Nantao Protectionary Corps were being stationed in their places. It was announced that the troops had received orders from Gen. Sun to withdraw to Sungkiang and later to Kashing. Sun's troops presented a disorderly and untidy appearance when compared with Gen. Chang Chung-chang's Fengtien men and the Volunteers and Protectionary Corps. In future, it was stated, no soldiers would be permitted inside the Arsenal. There was no trouble connected with the incoming of the Volunteers and Protectionary Corps.

Swords into Ploughshares

In reply to a question by Gen. Wu, the Minister of War, the acting Chairman of the Chamber, Mr. Fang Shao-pah, said that the former employees would be engaged under the new administration, but would find their work in turning swords into ploughshares. They would be given the same pay and the Chamber would arrange to pay them even during the time of their unemployment, while the Arsenal was in course of reorganization and transformation.

At the end of the proceedings, Gen. Wu said that it would be necessary for the Chambers' Committee and the representatives of the different officials to confer on details. The others, he said, could go back to their homes in peace and rest assured that there would now be no further occasion for trouble in the vicinity of Shanghai. These sentiments were also voiced by Gen. Yang and Col. Wang, Gen. Sun's agents.



READY TO FIRE A KIANGNAN INFANT

FOUR BATTERIES OF FIELD GUNS AT KIANGNAN

FENGTIEN TROOPS MOVING OUT

Activity at the North Station: Stores Being Packed and Fewer Soldiers About

There was considerable activity in the North Station on Wednesday on the part of the Fengtien troops. Trains were being loaded and stores and boxes of ammunition piled neatly along the platforms, ready to put into trains right away. There were many fewer soldiers than there had been on the previous day, and the appearances all go to suggest that a general move is being made up towards Nanking.

One of General Chang Chung-chang's staff informs us that the next base will be established at Soochow, and operations will be continued from there as far as the rounding up of Chi Hsieh-yuan's defeated soldiers are concerned.

What has become of these men is something of a mystery. After the battle at Wusih when they broke and fled, they seem to have melted right away into the scenery. Contrary to expectations, they do not appear to be running amok along the countryside, though this is probably due to the moral effect of the Fengtien troops appearing in this part of the world.

The "Shanghai Journal of Commerce" has published a report that, in the course of an interview, Gen. Sun Chuan-fang had threatened to put up a fight with the Fengtien army. The local peace agreement is, says the journal, but a step towards a scheme at which Gen. Sun aims. He is withdrawing all his forces and is concentrating them on the Kiangsu border, near Ihsing and Nanking, and proposes to attack that city in the very near future. "They might be able to chase Chi away," Sun is reported to have said, "but they will have a harder time in trying to eject me from Chêkiang. I will overthrow them and force them to visit Chi in Japan."

FRIDAY.

REPATRIATING CHI'S SOLDIERS

Some Taken into Fengtien Army: Others Given a Sum of Money and Sent Home

A large part of Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan's defeated troops have now been rounded up by the Fengtien army and most of them have been sent to either Nanking or back to their homes in Chihli, Shantung, Honan, Shantung, Anhui and north Kiangsu.

Some of the better men have been taken into the Fengtien Army, whilst the useless sluggards have been given food, clothing and small sums of money to return to their homes. The Ministry of Communications has instructed the railway authorities in the north to give the men free transportation to the stations nearest their homes, and the cost of repatriating the men will for the present be defrayed by the Fengtien command. Later it is hoped that the money so expended will be returned by the Central Government, who have given assurance that it will take responsibility for the payment of all expenses.

Questioned as to the arrangements for the payment of the Fengtien troops here, our informant said that this matter was now being discussed by the authorities concerned. A month or two ago, the Central Government had given money to the Fengtien command here, and the Mukden authorities had also contributed some money for their payment. Now, however, orders had been received from the Peking Government to collect money from the people of Kiangsu for the upkeep of the Army or to obtain loans from the Chambers of Commerce for which the Central Government would be responsible.

Gen. Chang, we were told, would withdraw all his troops from the vicinity of Shanghai, including those at Kiangwan and the Woosung Forts, as soon as he was satisfied that Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, the Chêkiang Tuli, had withdrawn all his men. He had already applied to the railway authorities to get trains ready to take his men to places along the line, such as Soochow, Changchow, Wusih, Chinkiang and Nanking. The majority would probably be sent back to Nanking. When they arrived there he would be in a better position to say whether they would be returned to the north or whether they would remain in Kiangsu. The matter would rest entirely with the Central Government.

TRAFFIC RESUMPTION ON THE S. N. R.

Two Trains to Nanking: the Arsenal Transformation

Whilst a number of trains have been ordered by the different military authorities to be used for the withdrawal of local troops; two trains are now running from Shanghai North to Nanking, these being a third and fourth class train at 9.50, and a first, second and third class train at 12.30. The Hangchow trains are still running from the Shanghai South Station, but the calls at Siccawei, Jessfield and Shanghai North are being omitted. The Tientsin-Pukow Railway, we were informed on Thursday, has resumed its normal service.

Work on the taking over of the Arsenal was continued satisfactorily yesterday. Most, if not all, of Gen. Sun Chuan-fang's men have left, and it is expected that the work from now on will be continued without a hitch. Some 300 members of the Volunteers and Protectionary Corps have now replaced Sun's men. A Chinese press report in this connexion says that Mr. Han Kuo-chun, Civil Governor of Kiangsu, has suggested that the land belonging to the Arsenal should be used as security for a loan, the proceeds of which should be used for repatriation purposes. It is said that the land is valued at more than Tls. 10,000 per mow.

The Ministry of War has telegraphed to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce saying that the Government's order abolishing all military posts and the withdrawing troops from Shanghai, as well as for the transformation of the Arsenal, was sincere and issued for the benefit and welfare of the people. As military matters have now been adjusted, says the telegram, the Chamber is urged to proceed with its work on the transformation of the Arsenal and of Shanghai as speedily as possible.

The Men and the Money

Gen. Wu Kuang-hsin, Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief of the Fourth Fengtien Army, was expected to return to Nanking yesterday, having completed his duties in connexion with peace arrangements in Shanghai. Gen. Wu has again been mentioned as Civil Governor of Kiangsu, his home province, and has intimated his willingness to accept the post if a mandate is issued. Marshal Tuan has telegraphed to him urging him to return to Peking immediately as the Government requires his services. Meanwhile the names of Mr. Cheng Chuan and Yuan Teu-yuan have also been mentioned in connexion with the Civil Governorship of Kiangsu.

Gen. Chen Tiao-yuan, Associate Tupan of Kiangsu and Defence Commissioner at Hsuchowfu, and Generals Chuang Tz-ping and Yang-Hua-chao, Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang's foremost lieutenants, have also gone to Nanking.

The Shanghai Chinese General Chamber of Commerce is reported to have telegraphed to Peking asking for $200,000 for the repatriation of Chi's troops. Another report says that the Chamber will borrow the money from the local banks and it will be repaid by the Central or provincial governments, the Government lands here to be used as security. Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang has intimated his willingness to contributed $30,000 for the repatriation of the men. Meanwhile, the Native Police are claiming $45,000 as their back salaries.

The Paoshan District authorities are offering rewards of between $20 and $35 for each rifle or revolver found in good condition by the local people after being thrown away by the soldiers.

Mr. Tsong Meng-pu, Commissioner for Finance for Kiangsu Province, has come to Shanghai in the hope of raising a loan for provincial administrative purposes.

THE Living Buddha from Tibet has thrown his hat in the political ring and in a telegram to the Provisional Government declares that he has many views on China's political situation which he would like to air if given permission. The Pan Shen Lama says: "Of course, I am only a religious man and ignorant of political affairs in the country. But I have read many of the books dealing with Chinese history, both ancient and modern, and at the same time I have different conceptions from my observation on the living of the people when I passed through the different provinces inside China proper. By summarizing what I have read I believe I know how to make the country strong and prosperous, how it can be united, how the corruptions of officials can be got rid of and how the people can be left to live in peace."

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LEADING ARTICLES

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HONGKONG PIRACY MUDDLE

Feb. 2.

WHEN, in November last, the Hongkong Government announced that a committee was at long last being convened to deal further with the vexed question of piracy prevention in South China waters, and it was seen that on that Committee all of the interests directly concerned with the problem were represented (with the notable exception of H. M. Navy), there was a general hope, if not actually a belief, in shipping circles that, if freed from outside interference and left unfettered in the scope of its activities (so far as they concerned the subjugation of the South China pirate), the Committee would eventually bring about a really satisfactory scheme of piracy prevention and one which would be acceptable to all concerned. What actually happened, as will be seen from the voluminous minority report which has been made public, was that the Committee never laboured as such, for at the very first meeting the Chairman voiced the Hongkong Government's dictum that the Committee had been convened only to consider proposals for the amendment of the existing piracy regulations and that the general question of piracy prevention apart from the regulations was not to be discussed. The membership of the Committee consisted of seven—four Government nominees, and one representative each of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the Hongkong Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the combined Officers' Guilds. The three last-named members joined the Committee in the clear belief that the work to be done was an examination of the whole subject and an exploration of all avenues; as representing the shipowners and the personnel of the ships, they knew beyond doubt or cavil that the existing regulations (which apparently were framed without reference to those directly and vitally concerned) had been given more than a fair trial and that experience had proved that the whole system was wrong. Was it surprising, then, that on being informed that their labours on the Committee would consist of nothing more important and useful than adding a few trimmings and embroideries to an unsatisfactory and unpopular set of bureaucratic regulations, they felt impelled to withdraw from the Committee at the onset and submit a minority report of their own with a definite request that it be accorded full publicity at the earliest date?

A careful perusal of that minority report, and a consideration of the whole piracy question since it first assumed serious proportions (some three years ago) brings about the following conclusions: (a) The Hongkong Government considers that the existing regulations, with a few amendments, can be made to meet the situation in a satisfactory manner. The shipowners and the officers are of opinion that the regulations are impracticable and unworkable, should be scrapped entirely and replaced by an entirely new scheme formulated by those who know their subject. (b) The Government is of opinion that the system of grilles everywhere on merchant ships is to be desired. The owners and the officers say that they are both an encumbrance and an added danger. The same remarks apply to fortified and defended parts of the ship. (c) Indian guards—there are 900 of them on British ships running from Hongkong and they cost $270,000 a year—are considered by the Government to constitute an important, essential means of protection. The officers and the owners appear mostly to consider them an unnecessary expense, an encumbrance in that they are very unamenable to discipline, and a danger in that they cannot always be relied on. (d) The Government is apparently satisfied with the present method of police searches on vessels leaving Hongkong. The officers and the owners consider that the system leaves much to be desired. (e) The owners and the officers, while admitting that the present convoy system has not proved entirely valueless, contend that it is a serious interference with trade and that it constitutes an unfair handicap on those companies which have spent large sums in acquiring fast vessels. (The speed of any convoy is necessarily limited to that of its slowest member). (f) The owners and officers consider that, allowing a reasonable time for the installation of apparatus and the training of operators, wireless on vessels in the danger zone should be made compulsory. The Government has as yet given no definite indication of its policy on the subject.

The crux of the whole matter, however, and the point on which the views of the Government and the shipowners appear at present to be quite irreconcilable, is the question of the employment of Naval patrols. The Hongkong Government seems determined to continue in its policy of placing the defence of ships under the control of the police authorities; the Navy has consistently been ignored in this matter; no Naval representative was invited to serve on the Committee; and even in a raid on a pirate lair which took place some days ago near Waichow, it was a salient fact that it was not H. M. Navy which co-operated with the Chinese troops, but the Hongkong police instead. The owners and the officers want permanent Naval patrols; no less an authority than Sir Arthur Leveson has stated that they are the only remedy to the situation; and the senior Naval Officer in charge of West River Defences has stated in addition that the only alternative to the present unsatisfactory system is to have permanent patrols by armed Naval launches.

Thus we have the people who really are concerned and who really should know—the shipowners, the officers, and experienced Naval authorities—unreservedly advocating that the present system be scrapped in its entirety, that the Navy should take over all piracy prevention work on the water, and that the Hongkong Police should confine their activities in the matter of shore precautions and searches; and the Hongkong Government, in face of opposition and of the result of experience, maintaining its adamantine policy of adhering to a system which indubitably has been proved unsound, unnecessarily expensive and generally unpopular. There is possibly some good reason for the stand adopted, but it is difficult to discover; though it has been suggested that the solution is to be found behind the fact that the Hongkong Government is answerable to the Colonial office and H. M. Navy to the Foreign Office, through the Admiralty, in London. The subject, however, is too vitally important for departmental or any other considerations to bear undue influence; and if the Hongkong Government cannot or will not come out into the open and justify its present apparently unreasonable attitude, it is strongly to be hoped that the representations which we understand are likely to be made in London at an early date will result in the clearing up of a situation which should never have arisen.

THE HOUSE FAMINE

Feb. 3.

THE title of one of the songs sung at the Scottish concert on "Burns Nicht" was "My ain wee hoose." It proclaimed in homely Doric the joys of home, sweet home, and such a theme creates a response in all but the most vagrant of hearts. The Englishman's house is said to be his castle, and our laws protect with the greatest stringency the privacy of the home. Out in the world a man is exposed to the buffetings of fortune, but if he possesses a home and a fireside of his own he has a refuge from the storms of life where he may smoke the pipe of peace and regain the strength and courage to play a man's part in life. But in spite of the fact that we make more of home than almost any nation there are probably fewer families in Britain, in proportion to the population, who own their houses than in any civilized land. We have the "stately homes of England," but we have also some of the worst slums to be found in any country and, since the war, houses have been so scarce that local authorities dare not pull down insanitary buildings because the occupants have no other shelter to which they can go. Half a loaf is better than no bread, and an unsatisfactory house is better than no house at all. These deplorable conditions seem to have at last aroused public interest and decisive steps are in contemplation to take away our reproach amongst the nations that we sing the songs of home and are content for a vast number of our people to dwell in hovels.

Under the late Labour Government Mr. Wheatley, who was Minister of Health, brought in a housing scheme which for comprehensiveness—and, it may be added, sheer wastefulness—almost took the nation's breath away. It was proposed to spend £1,366,239,000 in building houses for the homeless masses. Spread over fifty-six years that would mean a sum of 244 million pounds per annum to be expended on this purpose. It was an enormous sum, and yet, as we threw thousands of millions away in war we might, if necessity were shown, be induced to face even such an outlay as this in the cause of peace. Moreover, the money is not wasted as in war but is invested in brick and mortar which if well and truly put together will, ultimately, repay the investment. Before the establishment of the Irish Free State, Britain invested many millions in a Land Purchase scheme to make the lot of the tenant farmers in Ireland a little more tolerable. The result of that scheme was highly satisfactory from the standpoint of those who benefited by it and few would contend that the money was not well spent. That Ireland to-day enjoys a measure of prosperity beyond anything known in former years is, for the most part, due to the wise legislation which provided for a lavish expenditure on land purchase. The obvious weakness of Mr. Wheatley's scheme was that it proposed to spend £550 in building a worse house than private enterprise had already constructed for under £400. In Mr. Wheatley's scheme of housing, moreover, the property built was to be owned by the State or Municipality, a guarantee of little beyond inefficiency and possible "graft."

Under the new Government, Mr. Neville Chamberlain intends to devote his energies to the promotion of the ownership of their houses by the occupiers. Already very great strides in this direction have been taken. From January 1, 1923, to December of the same year no less than £7,866,000 had been advanced to persons desirous of building their own homes and 10,168 houses had been so constructed.

This brings a new ray of hope to the poorer class of the population. Most of us are painfully aware that the rents we pay are the chief burden on our financial resources. If we take the trouble to make a short calculation we shall readily see that in the course of our lives we pay away much more money in rent than would have built the most commodious of the houses it has been our lot to live in and, over and above, left us a handsome surplus towards a retiring allowance. The mass of people, both here and in Britain, are never able, at one time, to accumulate sufficient money to be able to invest in a house of their own. The Government now advances money on such easy terms to those willing to build that there is a reasonable prospect that, in time, the majority of people in Britain shall own their own houses. The result of this will be, in the opinion of the Minister of Health, that the disease of communism will be eradicated. The property-holder has a different outlook on life from the man who is continually stared at by the twin spectres of poverty and want. Mr. Lloyd George said, in a memorable speech, that Bolshevism was a microbe that attacked defeated nations. A hungry man is an angry man and he is invariably "agin the Government." The dentist is not impressed by his patient's tale of woe about aches and swellings. He removes the offending cause and the pain disappears of itself. If the Government of Great Britain applies itself to the amelioration of the conditions under which the common people pass their lives with the same energy and resource with which it prosecuted the war, who shall say that a brighter era shall not dawn ere the world be much older?

SOVIET BUSINESS METHODS

Feb. 4.

AN extremely valuable sidelight on the Soviet's methods of carrying on foreign trade is thrown by the letter from "British Merchant" which appears in our correspondence columns to-day. In the opinion of the merchant in question the time was suitable for a resumption of business connexions established in Vladivostok long before the war, and accordingly he proposed a visit to the port. As we see, he set about it at the beginning of November, and now, after three months' waiting, during which time he spared no effort to obtain permission to visit Vladivostok, he finds definitely that he cannot. It is very useful for the commercial community at large that his and similar experiences should be made known, for they may save others wasting time and money on equally fruitless efforts to bring about a resumption of business on the lines formerly prevailing. The Soviet representatives in this part of the world were undoubtedly interested in our correspondent's business, and offered to save him the trouble of making a personal visit by letting him know that there was not sufficient demand for his goods in Vladivostok to make it worth his while going. Very considerate on their part this may seem, but quite unsatisfactory as far as the average merchant is concerned, while utterly bad for the state of trade generally. While enterprise is thus being stifled the economic rehabilitation of Russia can only proceed in the slowest and most laborious manner, and even the Labour Party's proposed gift of £40,000,000 to the country would scarcely have hastened it.

While trade is thus being hampered by rigid government control which the Soviet knows so well how to impose, Russia's foreign commerce is undoubtedly enlarging. Against shipments of timber she was able so far back as a couple of years ago to buy tea on the London market, while more recently Vladivostok has again appeared as a purchaser in China. Since then a connexion has been established with India, also for the purpose of obtaining supplies of tea, while operations have been further enlarged by importations of sugar, tallow and the like. And only this week there was the welcome announcement of the purchase of a million pounds of yarn from Lancashire. Naturally with evidences before them of such expansion in the foreign commerce of the country it is but natural to find private firms wishing to take a legitimate share in it, but the present policy of the Soviet contemplates nothing of the sort. Government departments make the necessary arrangements for the purchase and financing of the imports to which we have previously alluded, and are able to strike a balance by exports of timber and the like from European Russia and of beans, etc., from Vladivostok. What has been created is a gigantic monopoly, and the Government means to see that it is not infringed upon. It has not succeeded entirely in bringing this monopoly about, because certain private firms are established in Vladivostok and elsewhere, and further, foreign banks have to be employed in financing the trade. Nevertheless as matters stand just now it is on a scale sufficient to deter private enterprise from seeking to resume normal trading relations.

The object of the Soviet policy is twofold—political and protective. Politically it means that trade is being nationalized, and no doubt the Soviet regards this monopoly as one of the most efficient methods of keeping a grip on the populace. Its fiscal aspect is certainly to some extent concerned with the fostering of native industries, and in the case of our correspondent there seems no doubt that a distinct apprehension existed in the minds of Soviet officialdom that he would be in a position to undersell native manufactures. A protective tariff would seem to be the natural remedy in such a case, but the Soviet has presumably a surer method in mind—by keeping foreign competitors out of the country altogether. It has embarked upon a huge experiment, the result of which will not be seen for some time to come. As, however, the business men of the world are seldom socialistically inclined, they regard its outcome as a certain failure. They are not prepared to believe that Soviet officialdom will be less expensive and wasteful when carrying on business

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than officialdom elsewhere, and so the ultimate consumers will pay higher for the articles they have to buy and be worse fed and clothed than those of other countries. Furthermore, by preventing competition from abroad with home manufactures, native enterprise is bound to suffer, for there will be no incentive towards increased efficiency or inventive genius. So, taking human nature as it is, it can only be concluded that the end of the experiment will find Russia still in as backward a state as ever.

THE SUDDEN RETURN OF PEACE

Feb. 5.

THE suddenness with which peace has been brought back and Shanghai's long desire for the extinction of Kiangnan Arsenal realized, with further promise of the demilitarization of the whole Shanghai-Woosung area, leaves one slightly dizzy and perhaps also slightly sceptical. It really seems too good to be true. For five months Shanghai has been in the grip either of open war or of a peace that held no promise of security, and although we may congratulate ourselves on having escaped fairly well on the whole, the enormous interests centred in Shanghai have made the anxieties of all very great. Less than a fortnight ago the general situation with which Shanghai was faced was unquestionably one of the gravest in its history. And now to all appearances the clouds have rolled away. So much for what can be done in China by one resolute man backed by a compact force disciplined and equipped. Probably Marshal Chi would have held out longer if he had not been undermined by treachery. But the best of his troops were not as good as General Chang's and the worst were very bad indeed, who have left behind them no name but for cowardice and looting.

If there be some who remain doubtful of the beatific vision of peace and wonder what may be behind it, it must be admitted that they have some reason. In the first place we doubt whether General Sun Chuan-fang will for very long be left in undisturbed possession of Chêkiang. He has been very lucky so far. He got Chêkiang in the first place practically without fighting; his occupancy of it was recognized by Peking; and now after he has actually taken up arms against Peking once more, he has been able to profit by Peking's reluctance to further fighting while the Rehabilitation Conference is in session, in order to make very good terms for himself, actually carrying his point with the vastly stronger Fengtien General, that both sides must withdraw their troops. These are things which Peking and General Chang are not likely to forget. Another point of interest is, what reward will fall to General Chang Chung-chang himself? His position as Marshal Chang Tso-lin's chief general is distinguished, but not particularly lucrative. There have been vague reports in the Chinese Press that Lu Yung-hsiang at Nanking had expressed himself ready to hand over Kiangsu to General Chang. Probably he never did anything of the sort and the report was merely the Chinese way of recognizing that Codlin was the friend (at any rate the man worth toadying) and not Short. But General Chang has not yet drawn any of the big prizes and might, not unnaturally, be wanting one. Another unsettled cause of trouble is the opium revenue. It is a good thing to shut up the Arsenal, but while the opium trade goes on merrily, there indeed is a carcase over which the eagles will be gathered together. Recent events have put the authorities in possession of sensational information as to the extent of this trade and the people engaged in it, publication of which will be awaited with the greatest interest. Unless the connexion between Chinese officialdom and the opium smoker can be cut for good and all, the demilitarization of the Shanghai district is but half accomplished.

Meanwhile from recent events there arise one highly interesting question and one obvious lesson. The question is, what is Marshal Chang Tso-lin going to do with his army? According to estimates believed to be fairly trustworthy, he has about 130,000 troops as well officered, equipped and disciplined as those now in Kiangsu. He has by all accounts a great many more, but the rest are probably no more worth taking into account than the average Tuchun's army. The 130,000, if all of the quality seen here, are quite enough to arouse speculation. Then there is General Feng Yu-hsiang's army: his picked troops (as distinct from those he has acquired from others in the last few months) we have seen estimated anywhere between 10,000 and 20,000 and, by the opinion of foreign experts, they are of a formidable nature. Then there is Governor Yen Hsih-san, in Shansi, who has built up an army not big but remarkably efficient and like Chang Tso-lin has given special attention to the creation of a large corps of officers and non-commissioned officers. Armies of this calibre present an entirely different problem to that of the "uniformed coolies" of yore. We suggest no answer to the question raised, but that question is not to be ignored. Concurrently, there is the lesson of the enormous prestige of the Russian soldiers brought into this district. As they came slowly down the railway in their armoured cars, Chi's troops simply melted before them. If this is the result of employing foreign experts in the destructive fields of battle, what might not be done for China if other experts were given equal responsibility and freedom of action in productive regions?

When all misgivings are allowed for, and every apparent cause of hopefulness discounted, it remains a good augury that Peking would not carry the war into Chêkiang and that the Rehabilitation Conference should open to the accompaniment of so convincing a proof of Marshal Tuan Chi-jui's desire for peace. The conference, plainly, will have to do a great deal to justify itself. Although merchants, students and labour organizations are to be allowed to send representatives, the conference is still to all outward appearance at the mercy of Anfu military chieftains, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen's followers as yet stand aloof. But we may believe, if anything is believable, that Marshal Tuan himself desires peace and for the moment he has got it. There are, no doubt, petty local bickerings in various directions and the brigands are a terrible scourge. But as a whole the country is more at the disposal of the Government party in Peking than it has been for many years. How will this opportunity be used? The Chinese are easily satisfied with a very little concession by their rulers, judging by the gross iniquities which they patiently endure; and the chance now offered to Peking might, without much sacrifice of perquisites and emoluments, be so used that Chihli would find it hard to raise another revolt. For the people are sick of war. There is an opportunity now for statesmanship such as no rulers of China have had since Imperial days.

THE DEARER LOAF

Feb. 6.

SERIOUS as is the announcement to the householder that the loaf of bread is to cost more, it is little compared with what the general situation threatens to be for China. To-day the world is said to be faced with a wheat shortage, how great it is difficult to estimate, because the great markets are constantly being subjected to manipulation, and when farmers are financed as they were in the United States last autumn there is a possibility of their definitely holding back supplies in order to command higher prices. So far as they are known, the facts of the case are that the Canadian wheat crop last year was very short, and the same thing was reported from the west coast of the United States. The great wheat fields of the Argentine similarly failed to yield their ordinary quota, and the best that can be said about Europe is that the supply there did not exceed the normal. It is doubtful whether it even reached that, for enormous damage to the crops was done in the United Kingdom by rain, and in other countries, notably Italy, the harvest failed altogether to come up to expectations. Russia to-day unhappily no longer counts as a factor in the supply of the world's wheat. The result of all this has been to bring about in the past six months an enormous increase in the price of flour. To take the quality which the foreign bakers in Shanghai use for bread—bakers' patent flour—it was quoted at G.$6.10 per barrel in July and August, whereas to-day it is G.$10.70, and the inevitable result is that we get fewer loaves for our dollar than we have been in the habit of doing. And unless financial stringency induces the appearance of unexpected supplies—which, however, are quite hypothetical—we are not likely to have any cheaper bread for some time to come. Still, flour will always be forthcoming for those that can pay the price, but what of those differently situated, as are the majority of the Chinese?

People are sometimes apt to overlook the fact that not only is China a great wheat-producing country but equally the Chinese are a great wheat-consuming people. Flour-milling is one of the country's important industries, and it may be remembered that when Europe was short of flour in 1920 China supplied quite a considerable proportion of her requirements. This export trade, however, has largely come to an end since that time, and during the past year or two China has imported very large quantities of Canadian and American wheat. This is mixed with the home product and becomes the flour of average Chinese consumption. About two months ago this was quoted at about Tls. 1.90 a bag (49 lb.), whereas to-day it is about Tls. 2.30. This shows a very serious state of affairs, but it is not confined merely to high price; there is the fear that an absolute shortage in the country will soon have to be faced. Reports from the interior are neither numerous nor reliable regarding the amount of wheat which was harvested in the autumn, such absence of information being largely due to troop movements, but what reports are to hand suggest that the wheat supply is sufficient to last until April and no longer. If correct, it means that for two months, until the first of the new crop is cut, China will be definitely without wheat. The other countries will be in no position to alleviate the situation, for their surplus will go to consumers able to pay a much higher price than China can afford, and there seems nothing for it but that the Chinese who are accustomed to flour bread will have to turn to other cereals. Again a note of warning as to the situation must be uttered. We have just mentioned that the civil war throughout China has prevented the usual amount of information about probable supplies being forthcoming, and it is equally possible that the state of war has immobilized supplies in the interior, preventing them from reaching the main consuming centres. It is to be hoped that something of the kind has occurred, but meantime there is no doubt as to the anxiety of the consuming centres.

In this respect Shanghai has come off badly. A few months ago supplies were plentiful here, both of flour and wheat, especially the latter, for owing to the heavy importations previously made very heavy stocks of Canadian and American grain were on hand. In Hongkong, which is a very important centre, supplying as it does Canton and district, prices began to move up when the reports of bad harvests had gained some measure of confirmation, but Shanghai for some reason declined to follow suit. Here was Hongkong's opportunity, for just about two months ago Shanghai was actually the cheapest wheat market in the world, and the southern merchants made heavy purchases. Dairen likewise proceeded to take a hand in the game, securing in the same way as Hongkong considerable quantities at a price which no other market could offer. The result of this drain on local supplies had, of course, its effect, and within six weeks there has been this substantial increase which we have mentioned. The Flour Exchange seems to have been caught napping in this instance, and Dairen and Hongkong have secured supplies for themselves at the expense of Shanghai's pocket. No doubt the presence of large stocks here made the dealers on the Exchange unduly optimistic, but it is curious that they should have been so long in following the lead given by people elsewhere who seem to have been better informed. Of course these stocks in any event would not have remained in Shanghai; they would have followed the natural economic trend and found their buyer in the best market; and actually the only difference is that a great deal of money has been lost to the operators on the local Exchange. This, however, is a small matter compared with the food of the people, and it may be hoped that means will be found to keep prices of what stocks there are within due bounds so long as they last.

THE HIGH ART OF VULGARITY

Feb. 7.

SOME one has objected that a phrase recently used in a theatrical notice in these columns—the art of attractive vulgarity, is something of a contradiction in terms. A good deal depends, of course, on the meaning of vulgarity. The Baptismal Service bids godparents to see that the child is instructed in the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments "in the vulgar tongue." Dictionaries define vulgarity as "of or pertaining to the common people"; and the judgment of common folk, as Wagner triumphantly retorted on his critics, is usually sound in the long run in matters of art. But even taking it at the lowest of its modern significance, vulgarity, when expressed on the stage, assuredly becomes an art and we would venture to say the highest of all forms of art, as it is certainly the most difficult. There ought to be some inversion of the familiar tag about the corruption of the best things being the worst corruption of all. For a buffoon at his best is delicious beyond everything and if not at his best is intolerable. Thousands of actors can make some sort of show with light comedy of the type of "The Liars," though less easily so in a serious play-like "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Still, if they only say their words clearly, they pass muster. The words too will carry an indifferent actor a long way in tragedy; and in melodrama the succession of incidents keeps up the audience's interest. But with vulgarity, low comedy, burlesque, it is all or nothing: if it be not perfect, no words can describe its utter abominableness.

Take one of the greatest vulgarians of the past, Herbert Campbell. He comes on dressed like one of Belcher's old women from mean streets, a delicious caricature; he stands scratching his elbows and eyeing the gallery defiantly; and then the song:

There was none of yer 'ighty-blighty girls
Yer 'igh tiddle-y-ighty girls
When my old shove-in-the mouth took me for a wife.
Fancy me in frosty weather,
Sitting as Venus among the heather,
And going about in the altogether
At my time o' life.

How could such utter drivel—so it seems in cold print—be made the irresistible, mirth-compelling delight that it was in Herbert Campbell's hands? An even severer test, for there was a certain cunning about the words of "My time o' life," was George Robey's—

They wanted me, they wanted me,
And I really thought the offer very fine.
Till I heard one say with glee
What they meant to do with me,
So I thought it would be safer
—to decline!

Shocking nonsense, no doubt. But the dullest, flattest mood could not fail to respond to George Robey's way of singing it. Then there was that delightful person Connie Ediss: only to see her wriggle her fat shoulders was an education. Many of our readers no doubt will remember her in "The Runaway Girl," masquerading as a gondolier, in tight and well-filled plush knickerbockers and singing:

Oh, I love Society, high Society, fine Society
I would rise horses with nice long tails,
If my papa were the Prince of Wales.

Could anything have been more repellant if it had not been done with her supreme art and personality, more irresistible as it actually was? Years ago the present writer attended a performance at the Grand Theatre Islington—it was an annual affair—at which provincial comedians and music-hall artistes generally were allowed to present themselves to the scrutiny of West End managers. The entertainment lasted from about four p.m. till nearly midnight. It was a pathetic occasion. One saw so many might-have-beens, anxious students of the pattern of Dan Leno, Herbert Campbell, Little Tich, Vesta Victoria and the "stars"; so good too, in their way, but just not good enough and therefore boring "to tears." It is a hard road, that the low comedian must tread to Parnassus and therefore, perhaps, rightly, when he gets there, does he draw bigger pay than a Cabinet Minister and leave behind him a name more lovingly remembered than that of many philosophers.

For after all what is better than vulgarity of the right kind? No doubt there are higher pleasures in life, but they are mostly of an individual order, to be enjoyed best alone, or at most with a very few companions. But there is nothing like vulgarity to break down the barriers between man and man and put us all on a common meeting-ground of friendliness and enjoy-

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ment. How can one remain in anger even with the lady of the vast hat just before one, when we have all been rolling about together in helpless laughter at the ridiculousness of a perfect clown? The trouble with the present age is that we are not really vulgar enough. We are mad for pleasure, in hysterical wild reaction against the supposed stodginess of our forebears. But real enjoyment too often passes us by. The said forebears, also, knew a thing or two, when they imposed on themselves certain restrictions which are now wrongly considered dowdy. The freedom with which we can talk now in the most mixed society of any and every subject has killed the exquisite art of impropriety. When even flappers are allowed to discuss topics once considered fit only for medical journals, innuendo (which Mallock described as the finest flower of wit) simply ceases to have any meaning. Is there a Marie Lloyd on the stage nowadays, she who of all others possessed the art of saying shocking things with perfect taste? There cannot be, because nobody is left to be shocked. By and bye the world will begin to realize what it has lost by "this freedom," and then we may have Marie Lloyds again and Mesdames Sans-Gêne, just as we may have music with melody, novels with plots and paintings with reality.

BALLADE OF THE DUFFER

He rarely fails to pull or slice
Or top his ball from off the tee;
Sometimes his language is not nice,
And who can wonder? Hardly we!
His swing is very far from free,
And most uncertain is his aim;
He's in the rough perpetually,
And yet—and yet he loves the game!

He isn't deaf to your advice
About the way he drops his knee;
Until the pools are filmed with ice
Through winter's chilly wizardry
He's out for practice, but, ah me,
The sad result is still the same!
The divots are a sight to see,
And yet—and yet he loves the game!

For lessons he will pay the price
Of all the pros.—a goodly fee—
Nor grumble at the sacrifice,
Nor for their pity make his plea;
His form is oft a source of glee;
The way he foozles is a shame;
He never does a "four" or "three,"
And yet—and yet he loves the game!

L'ENVOI

Golfers, I know you will agree
I do not need to name his name,
For Duffer he will ever be,
And yet—and yet he loves the game!

—"LIFE."

PARIS, Feb. 4.—French Colonial trade in 1924 totalled Frs. 9,366,000,000, which is Frs. 2,000,000,000 in excess of the 1923 figures.—Reuter.

ASTRONOMERS are sceptical concerning the "meteor as big as the moon," which is said to have been seen from Milan. An Italian observer's statement that "if it fell on the earth it would submerge Western Europe" is quite within reason—if the "meteor's" specifications were anything like those of the moon, a body over 2,000 miles in diameter, and as solid as a rock. But "meteors" are only visible when they enter the earth's atmosphere to within some 50 miles above the surface. A body comparable to the moon at that distance would fill the sky and then fuse the whole globe.

MAJOR-GENERAL Charles Camac Luard, C.B., C.M.G., who has been appointed to the command of the British troops in China, is a member of an old naval and military family. He passed his regimental service from 1885 to 1916 in the Durham Light Infantry, and later in the Indian Army. His first active service was in the Zhob Valley Expedition, 1890-91, when he was Assistant-Superintendent of Signalling; followed by service in the South African War, 1900-02, when he commanded the Burma Mounted Infantry with much success (mentioned in despatches, promoted brevet-major, Queen's four clasps and King's medal with two clasps). In the late war he saw much and varied service on the staff in India during hostilities on the Northwest Frontier.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Dear Bread

The telegram this week on the rising price of bread in Great Britain called attention to an apparent increased consumption of wheat as against rice in China. It suggested a growing taste for wheaten food rather for rice, but on the strength of a single year's increase in world wheat prices it is rather unsafe to generalize so far. The fact of the matter is that China has always been a great wheat producing country: it grows round here in abundance, and Manchuria contributes a huge quantity. Between the summer of 1923 and that of 1924, however, China was forced to import no less than 300,000 tons of wheat from Australia and America besides an enormous quantity of flour, but this fact must not be taken as displaying a greater consumption of the cereal. There were severe floods prior to 1923 and subsequently a bad harvest in Manchuria, and as a result the numerous flour mills in Shanghai and elsewhere had to make heavy importations from abroad. Such is the economic interdependence of the countries of the world that this would at once prove a contributory factor in forcing up wheat prices elsewhere, but as we see, the case in China is primarily due to a temporary and not a permanent cause, as the telegram suggested. The wheat-eating Chinese live principally in the north, and the rice-eating in the south, but between the two main sections there is a large body of the populace which will eat wheat when it is the cheaper and the same with rice. It is only natural also that an increased demand for wheat should have continued during the past six months, for battles have been going on in certain of the important rice producing areas, and so a shortage in the big consuming centres has resulted. This has to be made up by something, and wheat is the natural substitute. Bearing these facts in mind, it would be rash for us to agree with the telegram that China as a whole is going over to wheaten flour rather than rice.

Competition in Shanghai

Since the publication of the Customs revenue returns for 1924 and our comments thereupon, no phase of our correspondence columns has held greater attention than that respecting unsound business. Most of it has been to do with piece goods, but its scope could be broadened with advantage, not necessarily continuing to deal with unsound business methods but with general business conditions in Shanghai and the very keen competition which is being felt. For instance only recently tenders were called for the installation of an electrical plant in some locality or other, and no fewer than 30 offers were made. In this case the discrepancy between the highest and lowest offers came to 30 per cent., and those making the highest tenders were under the impression that they were cutting prices as fine as they could. Yet this difference was small compared with what was found to be the case in another electrical contract, for one firm offered to supply the required plant at actually half the cost of what a rival could do it for. No doubt a good deal of this is due to depreciated currencies, bringing with them cheaper labour costs, and in time a certain amount of it will be remedied—as soon as international plans to put the European nations on their feet have had time to make their operations felt. While, however, such a state of things continues, it is impossible to imagine other than extremely difficult business conditions here.

Child Labour

Miss Agatha Harrison has been shown—as we expected she would be—a copy of the "North-China Daily News" containing a criticism of her speeches at Home, and she has replied to it, but we cannot think that her answer is as convincing as it might be. Miss Harrison and her supporters equally ignore the all-important point. There is no denial of the fact that child labour is employed and that it is a practice that should be stopped. That is admitted without reserve. We all want to stop it—the foreign directors of factories equally with Miss Harrison—but people who have spent many years out here cannot agree with Miss Harrison that it can be done with a stroke of the pen. The lady may remember that, a day or two after her arrival in China, an interviewer sat with her for about two hours on the roof of the Y.M.C.A. listened first to her views and aims and then, at her request, explained at some length the situation as understood by people of experience here. The interviewer was the writer of this and previous notes on the same subject. He told Miss Harrison that foreigners wanted to stop child labour, but that the parents of the children opposed such a move: that even if the children were turned out of foreign-owned factories they would be sent to Chinese mills, or other work, and than they would fare far worse. Miss Harrison subsequently was told the same thing by people of higher standing and still more experience. That is the main and almost the only difficulty and it was because there was no evidence that Miss Harrison mentioned that fact to her audience at Home that she was criticized in this paper. She does not appear to have mentioned it yet, nor have any of her supporters here. Nevertheless, it is the truth and when British employers of labour in a foreign country cannot give effect to their earnest desire for a remedy for an admitted evil, it is not fair to tell other people, who are ignorant of the situation, that those employers were responsible for the evil—which is not admitted—and that little or nothing is being done to stamp it out. Lectures to the Hull Rotary Club will not change the ideas of the Chinese.

We certainly have no wish for any controversy which might give rise to impressions that we seek to "crab" Miss Agatha Harrison's efforts for the amelioration of labour conditions in China. For those efforts we have every respect. Miss Harrison devoted a great deal of time and energy to a cause with which everyone must sympathize: and although we cannot but think that there are peculiar conditions in this part of the world which would make the realization of that cause not quite so easy as some people seem to think, this paper will not fail in doing everything it can to better the lot of children in factories. Now once more and for the last time to our little difference of opinion with Miss Harrison. There is an unhappy tendency among reformers of all sorts—we speak quite generally—to visit the Far East and to go Home and give an incorrect account of what their fellow-countrymen are doing out here. Some even, like Mr. Bertrand Russell, would seem to take a special delight in slandering the white man to the utmost of their unprincipled ability. Like—

> The idiot who praises in enthusiastic tone
> Every century but this and every country but his own.

We do not for one moment think that Miss Harrison belongs to this class, but it did seem to us that in the original speech which came under comment she was not quite fair to British manufacturers in the Far East. No doubt this was due to the lack of time at her disposal and the amount she had to cram into it. For instance, the Ewo mills have actually set an example in introducing limitations on child labour and the Council appointed a Commission which gave up a great deal of time to investigating the matter. No doubt the West has much to answer for as regards the East, but these things ought not to be forgotten, and when amlioration comes it may also be remembered that the West took the first step in bringing it about. *Quorum pars magna fuit* Miss Harrison, a fact also to be recalled, if, as we hope they will do, the ratepayers accept the Committee's recommendations.

Film Prices

Mr. Henry Earls's letter on cinema prices which we publish cannot be allowed to pass without comment. Periodically similar objections are raised by correspondents. It is a pity the writers, before commencing their diatribes, do not obtain a few facts regarding the very special film situation in Shanghai and China. It should be pointed out that hiring "super-productions" for the China market is always a hazardous undertaking. The "rent" is the same as that charged to the American exhibitor, but whereas he can afford to offer fabulous prices for securing a new picture, knowing that he has a huge public in perhaps 20 cinemas, the Shanghai exhibitor has in comparison an infinitesimal one. Is he to be blamed, therefore, for safeguarding himself by slightly increasing his prices on these occasions? As for his constituents, the "fans" and serious enthusiasts of the films one imagines are only too glad to pay extra to see a production of the stamp of "Girl Shy." It is one of the best film comedies seen here from every point of view. There cannot be many who would not gladly sacrifice undistinguished "fillers"—as a rule far below the artistic quality of the "Inkwell Cartoons" mentioned by our correspondent—for a full-length comedy whose chief character is one whose abilities fall scarcely below those of "Charlie" Chaplin himself. Without being accused of taking sides with the film interests, it is only fair to add that until a larger public can be found in China the present one must be content to pay a slight additional charge for witnessing the best pictures of the year.

Our Curious Traffic

Two mighty Sikhs, vainly endeavouring not to lose any of their dignity by smiling, two tremendously excited Chinese constables, indulging in a regular orgy of stick-swinging, coolie-walloping and fearsome yelling, and a lone European sergeant of police, amused one minute, very angry the next, yesterday endeavoured to enforce the new traffic regulation that, for a fixed period before and after noon, no vehicles shall make a right-handed turn at the Szechuen Road and Nanking Road junction. Of course, it is well-known that no man until he has been three months under a British non-commissioned officer, with the awkward squad, is absolutely certain which is his right hand and which the left: add to this the fact that it is highly improbable more than about one chauffeur in fifty—and certainly no riesha coolie—had read or understood the regulation, and the state of affairs can be imagined. Doubtless in time people will become used to the regulation and one sincerely hopes it will not be dropped just when they are getting used to it, as happened to the luckless but excellent "one way" traffic order. Meanwhile these little happenings all add to the excitement of life and often one has paid generously to hear professional funny men say or do far less comical things than happened yesterday at that corner during a wait for one of the 9-minute interval trams that arrived after 22 minutes.

"The Mikado"

We are asked to state that at the performances of "The Mikado" the overture will start promptly at 9.15 p.m., at which hour the doors of the theatre will be closed. The overture will last probably seven minutes or so, and in it will be included a number of the best known of the "Mikado" airs played as violin solos by Mr. Heyes. Then, when the overture is finished, the theatre doors will be re-opened for a couple of minutes or so for the convenience of late comers, and will again be definitely closed until the conclusion of the first act. It is also announced that on the occasion of the opening night, at any rate, no encores will be given. As regards the first part of this arrangement, there is no doubt that it will meet with approval from all real lovers of the Savoy operas. Your true Savoyard will not even tolerate his overture being interrupted, and it is on record that Sullivan himself, while seated unobtrusively in the house, was irately reprimanded by the man next to him for whistling the airs of one of his own operas. It was, "Sir, I came to hear Sullivan's brilliant music, not your confounded warbling," or words to that effect. On the subject of encores it is quite likely that people may disagree, but there is a special reason for this arrangement on the first night at any rate. Being the 200th production of the A.D.C. some special kind of ceremony may have to be undertaken, and there is no desire to keep people up until all hours of the night. But remembering certain delightful performances one might hope for the rule to be relaxed on subsequent evenings. It is probably very selfish, especially when a man such as Henry Lytton has to take to sitting down on the stage and refusing point blank to do another hand's turn unless the others are allowed to get on with their work, but it is very human and most enjoyable.

Wrangel Island

During the past two or three years Wrangel Island has figured in the telegrams. To the average man it is an unknown place, desolately situated somewhere on the north-eastern coast of Siberia, yet interest in it has been aroused by a series or quite remarkable events. It belonged to nobody, was used as a trading station by fur hunters, and at different times since the Soviet began to function in Russia the British and American flags have been hoisted there, claims that it should belong to one or other of these countries having been made by different explorers. Then Russia put in a definite claim to its possession, and arrested certain of the people who were found on the island in addition to warning off all other countries which might claim to have an interest in the place. According to the "Japan Advertiser," one of the men taken there, Charles Wells by name, has recently died a prisoner in Vladivostok, and his story seems to call for notice. A citizen of the United States, he conceived years ago the building up of an American empire within the Arctic circle based on this unhappy island, and this led to his final adventures and their tragic ending. It is the sort of thing that has to be deplored, and it will not do the Soviet any good internationally, for apparently all that he did was to start work without first having obtained a concession from the Soviet, and on the strength of that he was first cut off from means of communication by the destruction of his schooner, and then imprisoned. The imagination of Wells may not have been by any means at fault, for latterly a good deal of attention has been paid to the commercial possibilities of the Arctic. A British mining company has established itself at Spitzbergen, although with so far indifferent results, and only a year or two ago certain American Government departments considered taking possession of the Arctic regions north of Alasaka by the use of aeroplanes Canada at once retaliated by preparing for a number of land expeditions with the same object in view, and then nobody did anything so far as is known. All the same, credit must be given to Wells and his name should rank high among the pioneers who have shown real imagination.

The Exodus

This year the annual exodus from Shanghai seems to have started earlier than usual. One of our statisticians mentions that no fewer than 120 people left yesterday by the P. & O. S. Morea, while on other steamers they have been going by driblets. It is surely early for the remainder of us to be left in the lurch, for it is now only the start of February and in other years people do not seem to have been in the habit of leaving until April was about due. Are the lucky ones, then, getting longer holidays, or is it that last summer at Home was such a wretched one that they are going to chase the zephyrs in the spring and really catch July, August and September bending? It must be remembered that Shanghai is not the best of places in winter; it is apt to become too raw and cold for thin-blooded creatures; and there are quite a number who express a distinct preference for the summer. For even if it be desperately hot at times drinks ought always to be cool and fans exist in abundance. Perhaps it is this which has led to the early exodus this year, and the sort of remark heard from heavily overcoated passengers yesterday, "Thank goodness, I'll be in flannels in another ten days," goes a certain way towards bearing this out.

Public Holidays

The recent closing of the New York Stock Exchange in order, as the message said, "to enable the members to witness the eclipse of the sun," reminds one of Mr. Bottomley's attempts to secure the ad-

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journment of Parliament on Derby Day. Time was when the House made no bones about taking a holiday on that occasion without any sort of secondary excuse, but eventually politics were take so seriously that Mr. Bottomley, with a face equally serious, would rise in his place to move the adjournment "that Members might pay fitting tribute" to some all but forgotten date in Britain's long history. The Coal Exchange always went one better. Every Derby Day, the poor old penny-a-liners would make great efforts to rise early and be the first to bring into the newspaper offices the Coal Exchange bulletin, which would read:—"The Exchange is closed to-day in celebration of the glorious victory of————." The "glorious victory" would be some affair of vedettes in the Crimea or Peninsula, or a brush between a handful of scouts and some Boers far out on the veldt, or maybe a privateer's engagement in the hectic times of 200 years ago. So often have we had to draw the sword in defence of our freedom that it is not difficult to look up a battle to fit every day of the year. Should Shanghai at any time in the future become so serious that there is a difficulty over closing offices and shops during the six days covered by the spring and autumn race meetings, it ought to be almost as easy to find a similar excuse to get out and watch the running of whatever by then has taken the place of the "China Pony." Our Volunteers, in one year or another, must have been on duty on most days. If military occasions fail for any particular day our descendants possibly might be able to fill in with celebrations over the laying down of another tram rail, for they must be going down now at the rate of almost one a day.

Things We May Hope for Some Day

That China's politicians will have made enough money out of opium to retire from politics;

That the creditors of the Banque Industrielle will be paid;

That Great Britain will get back some of the money owed her;

And that in transactions where business considerations are alleviated by sentiment, the sentiment will not have to be all on the one side;

That Avenue Edward VII will be converted into a real thoroughfare for traffic;

And that private rickshas will be brought to some perception of the rules of the road;

That there will be so many houses to let (*vide* classified advts.) that house rents will come down;

That "protected persons" will find a sphere of employment which will enable them to be satisfied with the protection afforded by their own Consulates;

That the automatic telephone will answer nicely when spoken to.

And that *some day* the relaying of the tram track between the Race Club and the Country Club will be finished.

The Siberian Route

Following upon the Russo-Japanese Agreement an official of the South Manchuria Railway has expressed the opinion that within a reasonable period of time the journey from Dairen to London will be possible in 13 days. In such a case provided a mail steamer is running direct between Shanghai and Dairen, the time of the trip from here will be about 15 days, quite a considerable reduction on the present rate of travel. The fare from Dairen to London under the forthcoming arrangement will be Y.416, to which about Y.78 will have to be added as the cost of food for 13 days, and so we may put the total down at roughly Y.500. This means about £40 in sterling, to which must be added about another $70 for the sea trip to Dairen. This looks very attractive, only it is generally found that passengers never get any advantage out of exchange, and passage money has to be paid at the normal rate of yen or whatever the currency is into sterling. Still the advantage of a fast passage offsets what additional expense is entailed thereby, and provided that the passage can be made without the annoyance of the restrictions which Chinese and Russian officials seem to delight in imposing upon whomsoever they can, the route ought to become as popular as ever before. The official of the South Manchuria Railway who has made the announcement regarding this faster service, states that the journey from Tokyo to Berlin will be only about two days longer than before the war, his idea being that it will take about 17 days. This is all perfectly good news, and even if after the experience which Mr. E. S. Little, JR., and others encountered in making the trip, the majority may not care to essay it, there will at any rate be the great advantage of a speedier letter delivery.

Railway War Threat

If Great Britain is once more to be involved in bitter industrial strife owing to a railway dispute, as the telegrams to-day seem very much to suggest, what is likely to happen to the pound sterling? The improving trade of the nation and the return to power of an essentially business government have together brought sterling to within about two per cent. of gold parity, and so good was the outlook only a few days ago that arrangements were in progress to bring it to absolute parity. It will, however, be useless to do so if Great Britain is once more to resume the process of exhausting her energies in a struggle between Capital and Labour instead of using them in productive works. In the past few years millions of working days have been sacrificed by reason of strikes, and if the habit is resumed it stands to reason that the country's financial position internationally must suffer. The railwaymen are demanding increases which will aggregate £30,000,000, and this at a time when commodities should be becoming cheaper to them. The pound sterling gets once again close to parity, therefore compared with a year ago when it was very much below it, it will purchase so much more in the way of commodities imported from abroad. Therefore the railwayman or other worker is obtaining so much more for his money. Not only will a strike affect the position of the pound in a downward direction, so that it will be of less value to the railwayman, but even if he gets his demands without a strike, the very fact that transportation costs in the country are going to be higher by about £30,000,000 is likely to have a similar result. Already Continental countries are underselling British manufacturers by a very great margin, and everything in the way of increased costs is bound to enlarge that margin, again with disastrous results to the country's trade balance and the status of its currency. With the rights and wrongs of the railwaymen's demands we have no knowledge, but the position will be seen to be of the most serious character.

Recruiting Shanghai's Russians

According to a Chinese report the visit of the Fengtien army to this district has resulted in the recruiting of some 60 Russians, part of the population here, who have been lured to the army by the presence of their fellow-countrymen. There is nothing surprising in it, for the prospects of so many of these men in Shanghai are about as poor as they could be, and in all ages the army has proved a refuge for those at odds with fortune. Moreover, judging by the impression which these troops have made upon the Chinese, the Russians may almost be considered in a fair way to rank with certain of the soldiers of fortune who took service under foreign princes in days gone by. Among the best known of these are probably the Swiss archers and the Scottish bodyguard employed by the Kings of France at various periods, and as we see in novels such as "Quentin Durward," a steady stream of needy young men, generally younger sones of impoverished families accompanied by a retainer or two, was always available to keep these companies up to strength. Here in Shanghai is a beginning to make good the wastage of the recent campaign, and if reports are correct, there are enough Russians available in other quarters to fill however many blank files there may be. And apparently in order to regularize the recruiting these men become naturalized citizens of China the moment they don the uniform.

THE unutterably brutal behaviour of Chi's men while in the vicinity of Wusih completely alienated all sympathy for them and the city wall is adorned with banners of welcome to Lu, writes our correspondent in that city. The gates were to have been opened on the 27th.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

THE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

Opening Ceremony Held: Special Commissions of Experts: Civilians Included

Peking, Jan. 30.

Arrangements are being completed to hold the inauguration ceremony of the Rehabilitation Conference in the grand ceremony hall of the Presidency on February 1.

The total delegates number 201, while 158 constitute a quorum, but hitherto only 128 have reached Peking. The idea, therefore, is to carry out the inauguration on the original date and to complete all the other arrangements so that the Conference will be able to open and proceed with its work as soon as a sufficient number of delegates arrive.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui will personally attend the ceremony and make an address relating to the objects of the Conference.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Jan. 30.

The number of those already in Peking who have to attend the Rehabilitation Conference has reached over two-thirds of the ultimate total. The official conference will actually begin a week or ten days after the opening ceremony in order to allow for the arrival of those expected from remote districts. The Government, under the Chief Executive, has decided to have special commissions attached to the Rehabilitation Conference, for example, a Commission to reform the military system, a Commission to consolidate finance, a Commission to consider the organization of the National Convention, etc. and to obtain expert views. In the first two Commissions a number of the members of the Rehabilitation Conference and experts will be engaged. In the Commission on the National Conference the representatives of legal public bodies and business men in all provinces will take part.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui has shown his respect for the views of Dr. Sun Yat-sen on the Rehabilitation Conference in his letter dated January 17 and has decided to engage the chairmen of Educational Associations, the Chambers of Commerce, the Agricultural Associations and the Labour Associations of all provinces as the expert commissioners in the Rehabilitation Conference. The Office to prepare for the Conference has replied to Dr. Sun Yat-sen to that effect.—Eastern News Agency.

Jan. 31.

A mandate issued last night announces that the Rehabilitation Conference will open to-morrow.

As a preliminary to the opening ceremony, Marshal Tuan Chi-jui today entertained at luncheon at the Foreign Office building all the delegates who have arrived in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OPENING CEREMONY: SOUTH NOT REPRESENTED

Peking, Feb. 1.

The inauguration ceremony of the Rehabilitation Conference was held at 11 o'clock this morning in the Grand Ceremony Hall of the Presidency. It lasted half an hour. Marshal Tuan Chi-jui and the members of the Cabinet, excepting General Wu Kuang-hsin, and 84 delegates, were present, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's followers not attending.

Gen. Chao Erh-hsung, former Viceroy of Manchuria, was unanimously elected Chairman, after which Marshal Tuan entered the Hall and sat near the Chairman.

Mr. Shu Shih-ying, secretary of the Conference, reported to the meeting regarding his assumption of the office in accordance with mandates, and the summoning of delegates, 148 of whom had reached Peking.

End of Corruption and Maladministration

Marshal Tuan then read a congratulatory address, in which he likened Chinese politics to a wheel responding to certain forces. The forward movement of the wheel during the 14 years since the establishment of the Republic, he said, appeared to have been downward, until now when the lowest point had been reached; but the upward grade was ahead and reform, following corruption and maladministration, was now open to the people. Indeed, the present occasion, he went on, was one for general satisfaction, for they had there a number of highly intelligent personages assembled together with the object of discussing intimately problems which it was necessary to overcome in order to work out national reorganization.

The speaker compared the work of the Conference to the planting of grain. The crop would grow to maturity in the spring-time for harvest in the autumn. The people, he said, represented the roots while the seed from which the crop grew should be compared with the wishes of the people.

A Historic Gathering

Mr. Kung Hsin-chan, the Minister of the Interior, representing the Cabinet, gave an address along similar lines, after which the Chairman responded on behalf of the delegates. General Chao said that since the Revolution many changes had occurred in China, Central Governments coming and going frequently, but as soon as Marshal Tuan had re-entered political life telegrams had been sent throughout the country advising the people to rely upon the Rehabilitation Conference to provide the initial remedies for the evils of government and for the corruption of national life, while a National Assembly would meet later in order to ensure the permanent foundation of a sound Government. The aim of the Conference, he said, lay in the foundations of reform in accordance with the popular wish. He considered the Conference the most auspicious gathering in the annals of the Republic. The presence of numberous delegates proved that the hearts of the people were with the Confernce and that the people wanted peace and security.

"We delegrates," declared the Chairman in conclusion, "recognizing Marshal Tuan Chi-jui's sincerity in the work of national reunification and reorganization, offer him our sincere congratulations and express our determination to work for the good of the people."

The Chief Executive and all persent then bowed thrice to the National Flag, while the bands played the National Anthem. The proceedings then ended.

A Further Delay

Feb. 3.

Seventy-two delegates attended an informal *in camera* meeting of the Conference to-day, at which it had been hoped to fix a date for the opening of the Conference for business, but the sparse attendance precluded this.

Marshal Chang Tso-lin reports that 21 Manchurian delegates, representing Chambers of Commerce, educational and agricultural bodies, are *en route* for Peking to attend the Conference.

Efforts to Secure Kuomintang

Feb. 5.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui will shortly entertain the Kuomintang leaders with a view to explaining to them the objects of the Reorganization Conference and removing misunderstandings between the Provisional Government and the Kuomintang.

It is officially announced that the Reorganization Conference will meet on February 7, when regulations governing procedure will be passed, and that the first business meeting will take place on February 9.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHANG TSO-LIN RETURNING TO TIENTSIN

Peking, Feb. 5.

The *"Chingpao"* reports that Gen. Chang Hsueh-liang will arrive in Tientsin to-day, and that Marshal Chang Tso-lin will follow him to Tientsin in a few days.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MARSHAL Tang Chi-yao, Tupan of Yunnan, is reported by the Chinese press to have despatched troops to clear Hupeh and Kiangsi of Chihli influence.

LAWLESS SOLDIERS IN PEKING

Tram Company on Strike Against Insolence of Freebooting Joy-Riders

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Peking, Jan. 28.

Since the start of the third of the three tram services in Peking, the Company seems to have been doing quite good business, and therefore it was a surprise to the capital when it woke up this morning to find itself tramless. Investigation proved that the company has gone on strike, for one day at least, against the behaviour of the military, who, by their insistence on free rides, seem to imagine that the service was started solely for their benefit.

In the light of the experience they have gained in the month that the trams have been running, the drivers and collectors and inspectors have come to the conclusion that they should be equipped with at least as extensive an armoury of weapons as their most constant but least profitable customers, the soldiers. Having been acquainted of the trouble caused to them by these pests, the Company two weeks ago attempted to ease the difficulty by offering tickets at much reduced fares to all the soldiers in the metropolis; but insisted that these tickets should be given out by the various headquarters and distributed in this way to the men. But the soldiers managed to preserve their contempt for rules, regulations, and tickets, and, minus their bits of pasteboard, continued to enjoy the sights of the town from the trams, at the same time refusing to pay a cent. for their rides. Collectors and inspectors, unable to collect any money from their freebooting passengers, bravely argued the ethics of the proceeding on more than one occasion, to the intense discomfort of the other passengers, who had frequently to witness arguments in which abuse was accompanied by slapping contests.

Encouraged by their success in holding up the tramway company, the soldiers told their out-of-town comrades of the ease by which one could get a joy-ride in Peking, and the sight of some of the cars lately, crammed to capacity, has been a testimony to the efficacy of this advertising. The out-of-town soldiers have been celebrating the New Year for nothing.

Mufti Claims Equal Rights

As in all things, they did not know when the limit had been reached, which, as events proved, was yesterday. The poor collectors, having under duress accepted the principle that all soldiers should not be charged any fare at all, were faced with another trial, the soldier in mufti, who insisted on the privilege obtainable in uniform. Several of the collectors, with a praiseworthy preference for the discretion that is the better part of valour, admitted the principle instantor, but one man on duty yesterday actually dared to dispute it. The passenger stated he was Captain Yu Kan-pei of one of Hu Ching-yi's brigades, and therefore could not stoop to converse with a tram collector about the terms of his presence on the car. But the collector was pertinacious, and reminded him that to all intents and purposes he was a civilian, and had to pay for that modern mark of the inferior man. Thereupon the captain became angry, and consigned the collector and his ancestors to the nether regions. So the collector retired, and, an inspector having boarded the car in the meantime, reported the case. The inspector also had the temerity to question the passenger, and, on being told to mind his own business, began an argument which ended in his cuffing the intruder soundly. A scuffle ensued, and the gallant captain was thrown off the car.

The last had not been heard of the matter, however, for the irate captain telephoned to his men, and they arrived on the scene with such speed that the next car was greeted with a shower of stones. The windows were broken and a few of the passengers were hit with the flying missiles. Hence the strike.

The tram company is secretive about the reason for the suspension. It also cannot say when it will start the services again; but an official was good enough to inform me that it is untrue to suggest that it has ordered armour plating for the cars and life-preservers for the men.

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NANKING IN JUBILANT MOOD

Minister of War Come Down to Arrange Peace with Tuchun of Chekiang: Peking's Desire to Stop War and Relieve Sufferings of People

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Although some of this letter is out of date owing to the delay in the post, for example the account of Marshal Chi's collapse at Wusih, it fills in certain gaps and contains much interesting information, particularly as regards the Tuchun of Chêkiang and the Government's pacificatory intentions.

Nanking, Jan. 28.

Marshal Wu Kuang-hsin, the Minister of War, has come here from Peking, and has been in deep consultation with Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang. The two have exchanged telegrams with General Sun Chuan-fang, and this morning a telegram was received from Sun asking Marshal Wu to meet him in Shanghai to negotiate for a separate peace between himself and

RUSSIAN OFFICER IN THE FENGTIEN ARMY

the Anfu Government, and intimating that he had withdrawn all his Chêkiang troops into Chêkiang.

The Minister for War was kind enough to grant me a general interview on the situation to-day. He was jubilant regarding the negotiations with Sun Chuan-fang, and is confident that they will be able to come to terms.

Desire to Stop Fighting

Questioned as to what the intentions of the Government were to Marshal Chi personally, supposing him to be captured, Marshal Wu stated that his life would be spared, but he would be taken to Peking and thrown into gaol. He went on to say that if Chi Hsieh-yuan would surrender himself and agree to forgo all further fighting, the Government would be prepared to spare both his life and property, and would probably defray the expense of sending him out of the country.

I asked Marshal Wu why the Government should be so generous to one whom they must regard as a rebel, if it were so simple to go in and smash him completely.

The reply was: "The Government do not wish for more fighting than they can help: they wish to spare the people suffering if they possibly can. It is Marshal Chi who forces us to fight.

"That being the case," I asked, "what do the Government intend doing to recompense those people who have already suffered?"

Marshal Wu said the Government was very poor, but Chang Tso-lin himself was reported to have promised the sum of $3,000,000 to aid the war sufferers all over China.

Kiangsu's View of Fengtien

I put it to the Marshal that Chi's supporters claimed that the people of Kiangsu were sympathisers of his, and were strongly opposed to the invasion of their province by the Fengtien army.

Marshal Wu denied this altogether. So far from resenting such invasion, he said, the people of the province welcomed the Fengtien soldiers. The Mukden troops invariably paid their way, and the people were glad of their presence because — they drove away the Kiangsu soldiers, all of whom were simply robbers and murderers.

Questioned regarding the strength of the Russian regiment, Marshal Wu claimed that they numbered 1,500. They were comprised, he said, principally of Cossacks, and were entrusted with a quantity of heavy artillery. He praised their fighting qualities very highly, and, indeed, enlarged with enthusiasm on the behaviour of all the Fengtien forces in action.

Russians and Their Pay

Meanwhile I have been pursuing inquiries regarding the strength of

MAKETH GLAD THE HEART OF MAN

the forces at Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang's disposal, and find he has close on 100,000 men altogether. This may sound an exaggeration in Shanghai, but I am assured that this is a very fair estimate. Train-load after trainload of troops has been pouring into Nanking from the North, and among the first to arrive were the Russians. A few of these are still in Nanking, but the majority are in the vicinity of Wusih. Those I have seen appear to be a good, clean type of Russian, well fed and smart. They are commanded by General Nichieff, and all are strongly pro-"White" in their sentiments. The men are provided with food, clothing, equipment, etc., and receive from $15 to $20 per month pay. A Chinese general in Nanking assured me that

FENGTIEN TROOPS LANDED ON NANKING BUND

Gen. Nichieff was receiving $2,000 per month for his services. The Fengtien troops number between 50,000 and 60,000. The rest of Lu's forces are made up of the Divisions under Gen. Chen Tiao-yuan, Bei Bao-shan, and Ma Yu-rien; and 6,000 men belonging to the old Chêkiang 10th Division. (We doubt whether Bei Bao-shan had turned pro-Lu at this time.—Ed.)

Shanghai Interned Troops

Another startling but fully authenticated piece of information that reached me to-day was that of the troops interned at Shanghai and afterwards repatriated to Tsingtao by British and Japanese

FENGTIEN MARKSMEN

steamers, 4,000 have returned to Nanking and re-enlisted themselves under Marshal Lu. They arrived here on January 24, and were immediately sent to Wooyieh, 30 miles north of Nanking, to be re-armed and equipped. Presumably they, also, will be sent to the fighting line, so that Shanghai may have the pleasure of their company once more. This incident is significant, for it demonstrates the uselessness of allowing soldiers into the foreign settlements with the idea of disarming them, deporting them and rendering them harmless.

A considerable amount of conjecture has been aroused by the presence here for three days of Wang Ih-teng, Tupan of Anhui. Wang has been received with every honour as the personal guest of Marshal Lu. He returned to Anhui on Tuesday night, and it is freely rumoured that he has promised his support to Marshal Lu if necessary. Another man who seems to be keeping well in Lu's line of vision is Mr. Li Nan-sung, the Shanghai City Magistrate under Chang's *régime*. His presence is no mystery, however: obviously he is still position-hunting.

A Japanese Canard

Several rumours are current to the effect that Marshal Lu has a battalion of Japanese fighting for

FENGTIEN SOLDIERS IN WINTER UNIFORM

him, and many foreigners will swear to having actually seen them. I am convinced that in this they are mistaken, and give credence to the explanation offered me on the point by General C. C. Ting, who accompanies Marshal Wu, the Minister for War. He points out that many of the Northern Chinese soldiers are distinctly Japanese in appearance. I noticed many for myself after this, and found it to be true enough. The uniform they wear goes to heighten the impression, but they converse in Chinese and there can be no doubt that they are Chinese.

The Penalties of Retreat

General Ting informs me that all the northern troops fight very fiercely and stop for nothing. He vouched an explanation for this, however. "If they go on," he said, "maybe they will get shot, maybe not. But suppose they do not go on and turn to run, then are bound to be killed; their officers kill them themselves." From which it will be seen that the Chinese are learning more and more from our western methods of fighting.

The whole northern army is excellently equipped. Their heaviest artillery is made up of six 6.5 Howitzers. In addition they have some 20 moderate-sized field guns, a large number of small mountain guns and a quantity of machine guns. They have several hundred ponies, well fed and in excellent condition, and a battalion of quite passable Chinese cavalry.

I am assured that there has been no fighting on the Ihsing-Loyang front, and headquarters here are most emphatic on the point that the Chêkiang troops have never fired a shot.

SUN YAT-SEN WEAKER

Calm and Brave when Told of his Real Condition: To Receive Radium Treatment

Peking, Jan. 30.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen passed a comfortable night. He was rather weak yesterday afternoon but his pulse improved during the night and this morning it was 108 and his temperature normal. The wound has healed and all the stitches have been removed. No complications are expected from the operation.

Owing to rumours in this connexion a member of the political committee which is in charge of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's work during his illness to-day informed Reuter's representative that "there is no truth in the report that Dr. Sun Yat-sen intends to leave the Peking Union Medical College Hospital where he is receiving the utmost care and attention from the authorities, particularly Dr. Adrian Taylor, the attending surgeon, and Dr. Heng Liu, the acting medical superintendent. Nor is it true that Dr. Sun contemplates resorting to native leeches for private treatment. As a modern-trained physician Dr. Sun of course believes in modern medical science and though facing an ultimate crisis he is not one to abandon scientific certitudes for the medical bizarrerie of Chinese therapy. In his astonishing career Dr. Sun has faced death many a time and he is again meeting it with courage and resolution, which shall make Death's victory a thing of struggle and not of panic."

Jan. 31.

According to a bulletin issued this morning Dr. Sun Yat-sen's temperature yesterday reached 101.3 and his pulse 140. He was quite weak in the afternoon, but responded well to medical treatment. He had a comfortable night.

This morning his temperature was 99.3, and pulse 120. He feels stronger, and his mind is clear, as it has been throughout his illness.

Feb. 1.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen yesterday afternoon after slight exertion (presumably owing to official calls which were made on him) suffered extreme weakness. His pulse rose to 160 and his temperature also went up, but he passed a comfortable night and this morning his pulse was 130 and his temperature 99.

Feb. 2.

To-day's bulletin says that Dr. Sun Yat-sen passed a more comfortable night and feels a little stronger. His pulse was 140 and his temperature 100.7 last night, but this morning his pulse was 124 and his temperature 99.3.

Mr. Sun Fo, General Li Lieh-chun and a group of Kuomintang leaders arrived at Peking this afternoon from the south and immediately went to the hospital to see Dr. Sun.

Considerable political importance is attached to their arrival.

Feb. 3.

According to to-day's bulletin, Dr. Sun Yat-sen was weaker this morning, although his pulse was 110 and temperature normal.

The physicians informed him of his real condition. He received the news calmly and bravely.

Feb. 4.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen passed a comfortable night. His temperature this morning was normal, and his pulse 108. His general condition remains unchanged, but after a good night he feels stronger.

The patient repeated in great detail to the physician an account of his illness, which extended over a decade, talking for 45 minutes.

Certain friends have urged him to use Chinese medicine, and Dr. Sun was told that if he desired, he could be moved safely from the hospital for treatment by a physician of the old school, or remain for radium treatment, which is offered as a palliative measure only. He chose the latter saying that he had personal knowledge of both.

Feb. 5.

According to a bulletin issued to-day by the Peking Union Medical College Dr. Sun Yat-sen's condition is unchanged. His temperature is normal, and pulse 120.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Looking for New Leader

Canton, Jan. 22.

Who will be the next leader of the Kuomintang, of which Dr. Sun Yat-sen is still president, is a problem engaging the attention of the leaders in Canton.

Word has reached here that Dr. Sun's health for some time has not permitted him to take an active part in settling many question submitted to him and that the replies which have come to the leaders here have been from persons around Dr. Sun in Peking and many of the actions taken have not satisfied those in Canton.

It has been suggested that Mr. Hu Han-min, now Civil Governor at Canton and Acting Generalissimo, and Mr. Liao Chung-hoi, a former governor, should go up to Peking to be near Dr. Sun and to take over the leadership of the party.

The "Prince Sun" Faction

On the other hand Mr. Sun Fo's followers hope that he will succeed his father. They form another faction known as the "Prince Faction," Mr. Sun Fo himself being known among many in Canton as "Prince Sun." He has the support of many of the wealthier members of the party whom the Hu faction call the capitalists.

At present Mr. Henri Waung, known among the Chinese as Wang Ching-wei or Wang Shao-ming, is chief adviser and private secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-sen. He belongs to the same faction as Mr. Hu Han-min, known as the "Elder Statesmen."

Among others mentioned for the formal leadership of the Kuomintang is Mr. Lin Sun of Fukien, who was once president of the Chinese Senate and Governor of Amoy. It is reported that he would be acceptable to the "Prince Faction" and to the "Elder Statesmen" but it is stated that he is not a Bolshevist and might not receive the approval of the Soviet Commission in Canton. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

More Mystery

The Canton government has prohibited publication of any telegraphic message or any reports concerning Dr. Sun's health. The report of his death is widely believed locally, says an Eastern News agency despatch from the Southern city.

CHINA'S SOLDIERY

Marshal Tuan's Scheme

Peking, Feb. 4.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui has ordered the Military Reorganization Commission to draft a memorandum, for submission to the Conference, under the following heads:—

(1). General provision for disbanded troops.

(2). Soldier labour development of waste lands on the frontiers.

(3) and (4). Selection of highway routes and river conservancy work for disbanded labour.

(5). Drafting of a new military system.

(6). Estimate of the total number of regular troops required for national defence.

The above is to be submitted to the Conference merely as a technical document.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE "Manchuria Daily News" gives the following times as having been achieved at the Korean-Manchuria skating contests held at Antung on January 25:-500 metres, 54 sec.: 1,500 metres, 2 min. 53 2/5 sec.: 10,000 metres, 22 min. 1 2/5 sec.: 500 metres backwards, 1 min. 10 sec.: 1,600 metros relay 2 min. 55 2/5 sec.

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SHANTUNG RAILWAY CRISIS

Strike over Dismissal of Officials: Shantung for Shantung Men

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tsingtao, Jan. 31.

A crisis in the affairs of the Kiao-Tsi Railway has been reached through the continued and growing agitation for the removal of the present management, Managing-Director Kan Tao and Vice-Managing-Director T. C. Chu who came here a month ago following appointment by the Ministry of Communications.

The charge against these men is that they deliberately removed 20 officials of the line who are natives of Shantung to make room for their friends. The agitation had its origin in verbal attacks on the railway heads by the dismissed men. Then thousands of fellow provincials lent their support and loud cries for the ousting of Messrs. Kan and Chu have rent the air. Now there is a movement on foot to call a general strike and the harrassed management is taking measures to defeat this project.

The plan of the strike promoters was to induce the thousands of employees of the line to remain away from work at the conclusion of the Lunar New Year holidays. Obviously this was changed as the men returned to work two days ago.

The management has sent out its own emissaries to combat the agitation and strike propaganda and these men are quietly working to restore conditions of peace and harmony. As the whole agitation against the management is based on the question of provincialism and the allegation that the management has been discriminatory against the Shantungese, there has been a sharp cleavage of the personnel, the Shantung employees being arrayed on one side and the non-provincials on the other. The latter, of course, are neutral.

Scurrilous Leaflets

The next few days will probably decide whether chaos will prevail along the line or the strong hand of the management retain command of the situation.

Offices of the anti-management party have been established in Tsinan from which a great deal of literature has been circulated, some of which contains scurrilous and unwarranted personal attacks on Messrs. Kan and Chu.

At a union meeting of 86 Shantung organizations in Tsinan a resolution calling upon the Ministry to drive out the present management was passed. The signatory organizations declared, "We will not give up the fight until the present unfair and prejudiced managing-directors are driven out."

Although somewhat concerned, the management is not apprehensive and feels that the agitation will die down after a short time. It was thought the storm would pass over when some of the dismissed officials were taken back into the employ of the line, but this only served to add fuel to the flames, No more of the relieved officials will be re-employed, the management asserts.

It was expected that another boatload of repatriated soldiers from Shanghai would arrive yesterday or to-day but thus far it has not put in an appearance. Already about 13,000 deported soldiers have passed through the port, being despatched to Tsinan as soon as they set foot on the pier. It is learned from Tsinan that of these 13,000, 6,000 have found their way back into Lu Yung-hsiang's army.

The other 7,000 are divided between Tsinan and Taian, waiting for transportation to carry them south to Pukou.

Speeding Up the Service

In this connexion it should be said that of the 250 box cars provided by tthe Kiao-Tsi Railway for the transportation of these well-travelled troops all but five have been returned. This is a decidedly better showing than had been anticipated. Of the five, only one found its way across the Yangtze at Pukou.

The railroad, according to the figures of Mr. T. Ohmra, Traffic Manager, is still short 279 cars and seven locomotives, which were ordered by the militarists in the early stages of the hostilities. Without this needed rolling stock the line has waged a desperate struggle to care for the demands placed upon it by the shipping public. All these could not be filled, it goes without saying. The past three months have been the busiest of the year. At the present time coal shipments, particularly, are heavy.

The railroad has been under the necessity of increasing by every means available the number of cars in circulation. Bonuses have been paid the car shop employees to rush repairs, the men working far into the night. Ordinarily the cars in the shops number about 150. By dint of strenuous efforts this number has been reduced to a daily average of fifty.

The loading and unloading of freight cars has been hurried up all along the line. This has had a favourable effect, also. The traffic department has given close study to the traffic problem and by these measures and others have kept the maximum number of cars in operation.

This winter Shanghai is receiving much of its coal from Shantung, the supply of coal from the north having been largely decreased by the disorganization of rail transportation. Tsingtao, as a consequence, has become in a few short weeks a coal port of added importance. There is a plentiful supply of coal all through Eastern Shantung and no danger of a famine so long as the railroad keeps operating. A strike of railway employees, on the other hand, would be disastrous.

A Bitter Quarrel

Tsingtao, Jan. 31.

The Kiao-Tsi Railway management is much relieved by the return of all employees to work after the China New Year holidays, as it had been known that agitators were endeavouring to incite all departments to declare a strike and remain away. The bitter agitation against the Managing Director, Mr. Kan Tao, and the Vice Managing Director, Mr. Chu, is still unabated, and the danger of a walkout has not been entirely removed. The management believes, however, that the employees will not go so far.

Moreover, not all of the employees by any means are lending a willing ear to such talk. In fact, the line is divided into two camps, the Shantung and non-Shantung elements. The latter, of course, is holding aloof from the present movement to oust the management.

Resolutions have been passed by scores of Shantung organizations, roundly condemning Messrs. Kan and Chu for alleged malice against Shantung provincials and principally for the dismissal of 20 departmental officials upon the advent of the new directors about a month ago. At a union meeting of 86 organizations in Tsinan the other day, a resolution was drawn up which is said to be representative of the attitude of more than 100,000 members of these societies. Messrs. Kan and Chu were excoriated in the resolution, which wound up with the declaration that the signatory organizations would not cease to fight the management until it was driven out of office.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

VESSELS ASHORE IN UPPER YANGTZE

One Badly Placed: Increasing Troubles of Navigation

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Ichang, Jan. 24.

The Yang-Tsz Rapids Steamship Co. have been unfortunate recently in two of their ships going on the rocks above Ichang. The Chi-ping is badly ashore at the bottom of the Chin-tan Rapid. The day after, the Ih-ling on her maiden voyage touched the rocks, but is less badly damaged, and it may be possible to do sufficient repairs to enable her to continue her trip to Chungking.

There are now 14 ships on the run, and as the water is falling navigation in these difficult waters will soon be worse than it is at present. The latest arrival is the Hsin Pa-kiang, built to replace the one lost last winter.

HOW THE RUSSIANS TOOK KIANGYIN

Five Days Fighting: District Worse Affected than any: Chi's Looting Troops

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Nanking, Feb. 2.

An observer who has just returned from Kiangyin has given us a vivid description of the fighting there and the effect upon the city and surrounding country. The Kiangyin district has suffered more from actual fighting and from soldier outrages than Changchow or Wusih, although Changchow has been looted in and out of the city and Wusih out of the walls.

Fighting began at Kiangyin on Saturday, January 24, and continued through Wednesday, the 28th. On the morning of the 25th 600 Russians were ordered to capture the forts. They rushed the steep hill and captured the fortifications within an hour, with the loss of 11 dead. The guns were immediately turned on the city of Kiangyin and firing continued for three days. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was cut, and for days neither Fengtien troops nor Chi's troops in the city knew that Chi was retreating and being defeated. When the observer, a Red Cross worker, left Kiangyin on Saturday the city gates were still shut with 500 of Chi's men within. The siege had then continued for eight days, and many appalling scenes of suffering behind the city walls are yet to be described. Not a house within the city appears to have escaped shell fire.

The missionaries of the Southern Presbyterian Mission outside the city have stayed and have received over 3,000 refugees, women and children, into the school and hospital compounds and into their own homes. The missionary homes have been struck by bullets, and one missionary, attempting to enter the city, narrowly escaped death. All soldiers entering the missionary compound or hospital have been required to disarm, and a large pile of guns has been gathered. When the observer left on Saturday, a parley of opposing leaders was being held, and it was hoped that the siege of the city might soon be raised. The soldiers within the city were holding out, no doubt, with the daily expectation of reinforcements from Chi and without the knowledge that their leader had fled.

The country between Wusih and Kiangyin has been looted clean by the retreating troops. The town of Chinyang was absolutely deserted when the Red Cross workers passed through.

Nine Russian soldiers had been beheaded by Chi's soldiers at Kiangyin in the early days of the fight there and their heads are hanging outside the city gate.

All foreigners in Changchow and Wusih are safe, and are busy now in post-war relief work.

CIVIL WAR IN HONAN

Preparations to Continue it Along Yellow River

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Huaiking, Honan, Jan. 26.

Ever since Hu Ching-yü, the Tupan of Honan, arrived to take over this province he has not been able to make his influence felt in the western part of the province south of the Yellow River. Liu, tuchun of Shensi, through his Gen. Han Yu-kun has been holding the Loyang section of Honan. During the past few days the northern bank of the Yellow River opposite Loyang is being heavily guarded with soldiers from the north and a further tax is being collected from the people to support military movement with a view to driving out Han Yu-kun and making Hu Ching-yü Tupan in the Loyang district. This new outbreak of civil War is something for the people to look forward to in the first month of the New Year.

Chin River God's Monument

Many years ago some villagers were digging for coal deposits in the Chin River and dug up three slabs of stone. It was afterwards discovered that these stones were a part of a very ancient monument, and had something to do with ancient worship of the Chin River River-god. At the time of discovery the villagers of Peikungtsun insisted that these stones slabs should be deposited in the wall of their village temple where the god of the Chin river dyke was located.

It was not long after that someone tried to steal away one of these stone slabs. However they were caught and had to return the very precious stone to its temple place. At that time the theives were said to have been offered $1,000 for their treasure. Not long ago a man from outside the province wanted to get a rubbing of the monuments and the villagers made him pay $20 for the privilege.

During the last week of the old Chinese Year another plot was laid to steal away the monument. It was moved away at night after first gagging and binding the temple priest. The thieves took it off to Chinghua, a station on the Taoching Railway. They put the monument into a coffin and were having it loaded on the train when someone insisted that the coffin should be weighed, thus it was discovered that this was no ordinary dead man's coffin. Not long afterwards the Peikungtsun search parties arrived in search of their precious monument.

It is now landed back to Huaiking and is guarded in the Magistrate yamên. Three men from Peikungtsun and several villagers from villages near by are being held for trial being charged with having stolen away the monument. One of these men is quoted to have said that if they had been successful in their plot and got away safely with the monument they would have received $3,000 for their trouble.

TAN YEN-KAI'S RABBLE

A New Intrigue in Kiangsi: Reported Revolt Among Honanese Allies

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Kian, Ki., Jan. 13.

On December 26 Tan Yen-kai, sometime Civil Governor of Hunan, entered Kanchow in person, and was welcomed by the gentry. On that very day the last of his rabble army was being driven out of Kian, back towards the south. On learning this news the Hunanese in Kanchow began looting on a minor scale in preparation for vacating that city. By January 4 they were all gone, and the 1st Central Division of the Northerners re-entered Kanchow, after an exchange of rifle fire. The main Southern army retreated along the Suaichuan-Chungyi Road.

In the meantime Fang Ben-jin came on to Changshu, when his subordinate, Teng Yu-choh, commander of the 9th Division, is said to have intrigued against him, with a view to taking over the Tuchunate. What will come of this intrigue is uncertain, so far, but at present it is stated that Fang will retain the Tuchunate. Teng is already appointed Commander-in-Chief of Fang's central army; and General Tang is appointed to south Kiangsi.

A Honanese regiment seems to have revolted in east Kiangsi and caused some trouble. Shang Dehsheng, his brother, and son have never been trustworthy as allies to Fang, and it is one of his regiments which has revolted. Troops have gone to suppress this trouble.

The province has been badly scoured. Every passing of an army is like a cyclone, sweeping the countryside. The Southeners collected about $200,000 in the province; and the war has ruined countless villages and homes. Different bands of soldiers have caused trouble at Yungsin, Fuchow and other places.

It is not likely that the Fang Ben-jin *régime* will bring any lasting peace to this province. His forces are too loosely hung together to last, and he has neither the courage nor ability to maintain his position long.

ACCORDING to the *"Sinwanpao"* heavy snow fell in Tientsin this week and the Taku Bar is frozen.

MISSIONARIES AND GUNBOATS

Secrecy About a Captured Pastor, and its Effect on Banditry

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Wuchang, Jan. 29.

The Chinese New Year has passed off without any incident of note, so far as these three cities are concerned. Fire-crackers have been let off night and day for a week, though perhaps not in such quantities as usual. A little snow has fallen, and also a little rain, so that the water supply is assured again. But the weather is exceptionally mild for this time of year.

A few days ago, a note appearin the foreign press stating that the missionary who was carried off by brigands three months ago has been released. That was all: just a mere note in an obscure corner of the paper. The public is allowed to know nothing about his state of health, or how he was treated during his captivity. We do not know whether he was ransomed, or how his release was secured. There is not a word about those who were guilty of the crime of kidnapping him, or of any means being taken to effect their arrest and punishment.

The reason for all this secrecy is the one which I pointed out a little while ago. If these details were made public, the vengeance of the bandits would fall upon those who would be supposed to have supplied them to the Press. The robbers have their agents in Hankow. They watch the newspapers, and especially the foreign ones, for they understand English and are probably well educated and intelligent men. A paragraph this week in the "Central China Post" might mean the sacking of a mission station in the country next month. There is in future to be no publicity for these crimes. Those who suffer and whose friends suffer, must simply sit tight and bear it.

No doubt this state of things is highly pleasing to the minority of missionaries and others, who do not desire the backing of foreign gunboats and consular authorities as they go about their work. In theory, no doubt, it is eminently undesirable that the gospel of peace and goodwill should be propagated by men who have these means of assistance in the background. But there are others who do not see why the fact of their being engaged upon a perfectly harmless and unselfish errand should make them the helpless prey of lawless and remorseless criminals.

SOLDIERS MOVED FROM E. CHEKIANG

All for the Kiangsu Wars

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Taichow, Chê., Jan. 23.

For some weeks past several hundred troops have been stationed in the town. When first brought here a few showed signs of possessing that unsolderly quality of "getting something for nothing," or at least of going as near to it as they dared. They would walk into a shop, order some goods, and tender in payment about a tenth of the actual pirce. The Magistrate hearing of this, gave a straight piece of advice to them and since then there have been practically no complaints. The business men of Taichow and Haemeng have had to pay up the sum of $3,000 towards the support of these men, as the price of the protection they have received.

The day before yesterday a wire came ordering the soldiers to go north at once.

I met crowds of them going through the streets to their place of embarkation. Most of them were well loaded, some carrying food, others wood or oil or bedding. They are being taken away from here to fight for Marshal Chi, though I expect they are prepared to fight for any one who will pay them.

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MILITARISM AND IMPERIALISM

Kuomintang Propaganda in Chekiang: People Urged to Rise and Act

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Shaohsing, Chê., Jan. 27.

The Kuomintang took the occasion of the New Year celebration to do a bit of propaganda work in the city. On New Year's day the following leaflets were spread broadcast throughout the city.

(1) "During the past 13 years we have been trampled by the military from the inside and imperialism from the outside. Those who have suffered most are the non-capitalists.

Brother non-Capitalists! If from now on we want to leave this bitter sea and want to get future blessings the only way is to all unite and forcefully beat down.

Militarism from within and
Imperialism from without!

Issued by the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd subbranches of the 1st branch of the China Kuomintang, Chêkiang, Shaohsing."

(2) *"Please all notice this tremendously important thing"*

We people are very miserable! We shout with misery, but no one answers and also there is no place to which we can make complaint. People! Notice! Now someone is going to promote a People's Convention. Since this is a true People's Convention it is the place at which we can make complaint. Why should we not help in its establishment? A group of people has been formed in Shaohsing to urge its establishment. Brothers, it is tremendously important that each individual and group should join this urging group.

Brother farmers! You have worked hard for a year but still you have to buy rice from others. If you want your rents reduced after the convention has been established you will have a place at which you can make complaint.

Brother workers! You work more than 10 hours a day, but still you cannot support your families. If you want higher wages and shorter hours after the convention is established you will have a place at which to make complaint.

Brother merchants! You use your capital to manufacture and transport goods, but through war and taxes your payments are in excess of your capital. Your business is robbed by foreigners. If you want to reduce your taxes after the convention is formed you will have a place at which to make complaint.

Brothers of all ranks; We have suffered so at the hands of robbers and soldiers that we can no longer live in the country or sleep in the city. Is not this the result of the quarrelling and disputes of the selfish militarists? If we want to banish the military we shall have a place at which to make complaint after the convention is formed.

The People's Convention is an opportunity to have the people themselves solve all of China's big problems. The convention is our present tremendously important business. Let us all arise and urge its establishment."

The idea of a People's Convention has caught the imagination of the younger Chinese and the Kuomintang is steadily gaining in strength. The China Temperance Society which publishes the *"Sing Hua Pao"* in this city has already appointed two delegates for the convention.

TIGERS IN CHEKIANG

Are They Real or a Myth: Tragic Tale in Evidence

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Taichow, Chê., Jan. 23.

Every now and again someone or other reports that he has seen a tiger in the hills. The information is received generally much in the same spirit that meets the assertion that Mr. X has seen a sea-serpent!

I was up in the Tinte district two or three weeks ago. I was walking amongst the hills with a Chinese companion, when he pointed to a house standing rather an isolated position and informed me that it was the home of a certain Chinese Christian whose faith was sorely tested five or six years ago. Although he has recovered the steadfastness of faith which marked his character in the early days of his conversion, he bears marks of the experiences through which he has passed. On asking for particulars my informant told me that one of his biggest, strongest boys was out one morning cutting wood on the side of a neighbouring hill. A woodcutter higher up the hill accidentally dislodged a big stone. It came rolling and crashing down and before the young fellow could get out of the way, struck him on the side of the head and killed him instantly. A week or two later the father was working in the paddy fields down on the flat, with a little son of 10 years old helping him. They were hoeing about 10 yards apart when suddenly the father was startled by an egonized cry, from his little son. On looking up he was horrified to see that a tiger had suddenly pounced on him, seized him by the throat, swung the little chap's body on to its own back and was making off with it. The father with his hoe dashed after it and soon a dozen men and dogs were in hot pursuit. The beast finding they were gaining on him dropped the body and escaped. On reaching the boy, scarcely a 100 yards from where he had been seizcd, found him quite dead with terrible wounds in the throat.

The father and the neighbours all say it was a *lao'hwu* 老虎 *i.e.*, a tiger. If it were not a tiger, what could it have been? A wolf would surely not have sufficient strength to throw the body of a 10-year old boy over its back and bolt with it. I do not say it could not, but I question it. If it were a wolf, why should so many witnesses declare positively it was a tiger?

If these notes should meet the eye of anyone capable of giving authoritative information I for one would be grateful to receive an answer to either on both these queries.

ANOTHER TIGER!

Real One This Time: Convincing Evidence of Existence of Laohus in Anhui

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Anking, An., Jan. 26.

A good deal of interest has been added to the new year's celebration here by the killing of a large tiger which is now being displayed—and incidentally for sale—in the City Temple. After terrorizing the villagers in the neighbourhood of Tsien Shan (about 40 miles from Anking) and carrying off three children the people organized a hunting party which tracked down the slew the great yellow beast.

It has long been said by foreigners that the so called *laohu* of this part of China were nothing but leopards, but the exhibition of this one is convincing evidence that real tigers do exist here.

Not long ago two people, a man and wife, were brought into the local mission hospital with very serious wounds about the head and face caused by a *laohu*. The woman said that she saw the beast in the room at night approaching her sleeping child. She seized a stool and clubbed it over the head whereupon the enraged animal attacked here with almost fatal results. Fortunately the husband arrived and succeeded in driving off the night prowler, but not until he too had been severely mauled. This happened only 15 li from the city, while a week ago another *laohu* was reported killed 20 li across the river. However, the present specimen is the only one that has been identified by foreigners as the real thing.

The meat of the tiger, of course, is in great demand for its strengthening effect upon the eater giving both power and courage. There is a steady sale of the flesh of this one which finds a ready market at the price of $2 per catty. Undoubtedly a goodly quantity of beef and goat meat (not bad substitutes some of the foreign ladies think who have to depend at times upon the local meat market) is being palmed off on the superstitions seekers of the strength-giving morsels.

The bones, too, are equally, if not more valuable, which, after being carefully scraped of the precious flesh, are soaked in wine which makes it—so it is claimed—an efficacious tonic and cure for reheumatism and other bone troubles in old people. Then, of course, the claws, etc., are very important items in Chinese medicine, and last but not least the skin which would undoubtedly make a beautiful rug is offered for the modest sum of $100. A moderate estimate of the total sales of this one animal which weighed 270 catties is placed at $640.

PEKING, Jan. 22.—An Indian trader, who has now reached Peking, reports that when he was about to board the train at a small station next to Kalgan five soldiers took from him a bag containing $3,600. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

MORE SOLDIERS AT TSINGTAO

Problem of Disposal of Them: Many Already Gone to Join Lu at Nanking

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tsingtao, Jan. 23.

The str. Bunmei Maru, carrying the second contingent of returned soldiers from Shanghai, arried here yesterday afternoon and as soon as food had been distributed among the men they were loaded into freight cars and transported to Tsinan. The Astrakhan, which according to a Shanghai report, was to have carried another detachment of the ex-soldiers here is not transporting any troops, according to the local office of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, but left Shanghai on Wednesday direct for Vladivostok.

There were 2,400 men on the Bunmei Maru and with the 4,500 who arrived previously some 6,900 have now been repatriated. According to advices from Tsinan, however, the aim of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce in sending the fighting men here has been defeated.

It was understood when the men embarked from Shanghai that they would return to their homes and follow peaceful pursuits. The traditional reputaion of the Shantung fighting man has been responsible for his being sought after to fight the battles of many a general and wherever two armies collide it is almost a certainty that one or both is largely made up of fighting Shantungese. From the ever-present menace of these mercenaries Shanghai, naturally, wished deliverance. For many months they had served with various generals, but, at all times, preyed upon the people of Chêkiang and Kiangsu.

No Permanent Settlement

Sending the men back to their native province, Shanghai believed, was getting rid of them permanently. Such is far from being the case, however, as reports from Tsinan state that the whole contingent were immediately sent to Pukow to join Lu Yung-hsiang's army.

Doubtless these men will find their way into the expeditionary force operating against Chi Hsieh-yuan and his allies and instead of being an internal menace to Shanghai will be an external one.

Reports from Tsinan state that the first contingent were shipped southward in the Kiao-Tsi Railway cars in which they travelled to Tsinan. The use of these cars was ordered by the provincial authorities after the terminal officials in Tsinan had refused to release them for this purpose.

Freight Cars Short

In consequence the Kiao-Tsi Railway now has a serious shortage of freight cars. For the past three months the line has been without 120 cars commandeered by the military authorities and has had great difficulty in meeting traffic demands, especially since this period is the busiest of the whole year. Further loss of rolling stock is disastrous. Furthermore, it may entail suffering because of insufficient facilities to move foodstuffs. Local officials are expected to voice a strong protest.

A Joy-ride Round Tsingtao

Jan. 25.

The fourth and fifth steamers carrying soldiers returned ostensibly to their homes in Shangtung by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, were docked to-day after an enforced wait for more than 24 hours in the harbour because of the wharf employees being on a holiday. Railroad officials place the number of troops in all just below 15,000. Like the others who arrived earlier in the week they were immediately marched into waiting trains which were despatched to Tsinan.

The first lot of 4,500 soldiers left Tsinan for Pukow shortly after arriving there last Wednesday; so did the second and third detachments of 2,500, each arriving at the provincial capital on Friday and yesterday.

All Back to Lu

It is evident that the whole 15,000 soldiers will shortly be enrolled again in the service of Lu Yung-hsiang.

Chinese here believe that the Shanghai gentry accomplished a twofold purpose in shipping the soldiers from that city. In the first place they rid their city of an internal menace and in the second place they knew that they were giving aid to Lu Yung-hsiang, whom they are said to prefer to Chi Hsieh-yuan or Sun Chuan-fang. For the soldiers it has meant a thousand-mile journey with plenty of food and fresh air and freedom from the confinement of a detention camp. They will return to the fighting zone with renewed vigour. All are not averse to serving under Lu Yung-hsiang once more. Lu is uniformly popular with his soldiers, it is said here.

Another matter on which inquiring Tsingtaonese would like to be enlightened is whether all of these deported soldiers were Shantungese. There is a disposition here to think the contrary.

These men are hardy, seasoned veterans, some of whom have been campaigning in China's battles for years. They may not know what it is all about but they are provided with "three squares" a day and that is the chief desideratum according to their viewpoint. Shantungese are breathing sighs of relief that these redoubtable warriors have been despatched to the fighting zone again as they would have been a serious menace to the province under present conditions if they had elected to remain in Shantung. This is the off season in agriculture and there is no industrial work for these unskilled hands.

The Railway Suffers Severely

The big loser by the decision of the Shanghai Chamber to send these troops to Tsingtao is the Kiao-Tsi Railway. The railway, naturally, has been under the necessity of providing rolling stock to transport these detachments out of Tsingtao. Eighty cars were used by the first contingent, 35 by the second, the same number by the third and 77 by the fourth, now steaming toward Tsinan.

The 80 cars in the first lot were ordered to be turned over to the Tsinpu Railway at Tsinan upon their arrival there. The stationmaster refused and the military authorities sent armed soldiers to seize them. The next lot the stationmaster, acting under instructions from railway headquarters here, was able to detain, the military authorities managing to scrape together enough Tsin-Pu cars in which to ship the men to Pukow. The Tsinan authorities then seized the next lot of 35 despite the remonstrances of the Kiao-Tsi Railway authorities. It is expected here they will commandeer the 77 arriving there tomorrow.

In losing these 192 cars, all standard-size box-cars, if only for a short time, and the prospects are that it may be considerably longer before the Tsin-Pu Railway returns them, judging by past occurrences, the Kiao-Tsi Railway sustains a severe loss and one that will have a disastrous effect on shipping along the line. With only about 100 box cars now available the needs of the shippers can in no way be cared for.

TROOPS MENACE LU'S RIGHT FLANK

Thousands of Sun's Soldiers Moving on Ihsing

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Huchow, Jan. 25.

Thousands of troops and great quantities of supplies have been passing through or leaving Huchow during the past few days, moving towards Changhsing and Ihsing. Practically all boats in the city and surrounding country have been commandeered. Attempts have also been made to obtain the use of foreign mission boats. The cook in one of the foreign homes is one of the many men impressed by the soldiers for service at the front.

Over 70 refugees from Wusih arrived at the Union Hospital yesterday and are being cared for there. They had a narrow escape from the soldiers who visited their homes in the looted and burning city across the lake. Several hundred more fugitives are reported to be coming this way for shelter.

DEPLORABLE STATE OF CHINA RLWYS.

Disgust of Minister of Communications over Militarist Flouting of His Plans

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Peking, Jan. 30.

Yeh Kung-cho has been absent from his post at the Ministry of Communications for the last ten days. The rumours that he is "politically" ill are untrue but it is true that he is disgusted with the militaristic flouting of his plans for the return of the railways to pre-war traffic conditions.

The railway administration in North China is fast approaching a state when only the strongest action will save it from complete disintegration. Rolling stock has been commandeered on all lines for military use, the best cars are reserved as billets for superior officers and various administrations report confusion unparalleled in the history of communications in China, with cars careering about the country divorced entirely from the railways to which they were originally allocated.

This militarization of railways is realized in Peking be an urgent problem and the appointment of a new Minister of Railways is being talked about to deal with it; but, like all other pressing matters, it must wait on the Reorganization Conference. Government officials say that nothing can be done but try to get military men at the conference to co-operate in re-establishing the administration on a civilian footing.

The worst offenders among the warlords are Hu Ching-yi and Sun Yueh, both of whom are astride the Peking-Hankow Railway, and well satisfied with that position. Sun Yueh, according to a recent memorial to the chief executive, considers it so healthy that he thinks he should be allowed to suppress the bandits of Kansu from his particular bailiwick at Paotingfu.

POPPY DAY IN HONGKONG

£2553 Collected: Letter from Field Marshal Haig

Mr. H. Glanville, chairman of the Poppy Day Sub-committee of the British Legion, in Hongkong, writes:—

"I have the pleasure to enclose a copy of a letter dated December 22, 1924, which I have received from Field Marshal Earl Haig. The letter speaks for itself and I shall be very grateful if you will kindly publish it in your columns in order that all who helped and contributed so generously on Armistice Day may know how greatly their assistance is appreciated."

Earl Haig's letter is as follows:—

APPEAL DEPARTMENT FOR BRITISH LEGION.

145, Piccadilly, W.1.
Dec. 22, 1924.

H. Glanville, Esq.,
C/o Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld., Hongkong.

Dear Mr. Glanville,—I write to offer my heartiest congratulations and warmest thanks to yourself and all who co-operated with you in securing so splendid a response to my appeal for assistance for distressed British ex-Service men, their dependents, and the widows and children of the fallen.

The amount already received—£2553—represents, I understand, the contribution of Hongkong alone, and I am informed that there are many cities in China whose contributions have yet to come in. The support given will be of the greatest help in the alleviation of distress, and in the name of our many necessitous comrades I should like to assure you that the generosity of those who have given so freely is gratefully appreciated.

Clearly the organization through which this handsome collection has been made must have been painstaking and have necessitated many sacrifices, and I will ask you to do your best to convey to each one of your helpers my very sincere thanks

Believe me,
Yours very truly,
(Sgd) HAIG, F. M.

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TROUBLE ON THE TIBETAN MARCHES

Hostilities Between the Chinese Troops and Those from Across Border with Tachienlu in Grave Suspense; Mystery of why They Should Fight

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tachienlu, Sze., Dec. 15.

A fierce battle is now in progress outside the south gate. From the early hours of morning the firing between the Chinese and the Tibetans has been heard all over the town and the inhabitants are now keenly listening to its direction. Some firing would indicate the near approach of the Tibetans, at other times the shots seem more distant, indicating their retreat. Troops are carefully stationed at every street corner throughout the city and at present no one is allowed beyond their front door. Apart from a few Tibetan women carrying water the streets of this border town are quite deserted.

For days now we have been anticipating an attack and the present move by the Tibetans is not a surprise. The soldiers of the Third Army are well placed round the city and they seem to be well under control. As we are probably two or three miles from the fighting we can only tell by the firing just how serious the engagement is.

The lamas in the different temples throughout the city are blowing away furiously at their trumpets; they are banging continously at their drums, and vociferously reciting their sacred books. If we interpret the lama noise aright, they are seriously praying for the peace of Tachienlu. One immense drum is being occasionally beaten, and it reverberates through the city like a huge gun firing.

A Frontier Problem

The sun is shining gloriously with the temperature just at 40 Fahr. Why on such a beautiful day men should be callously taking each other's lives and trying to take from each other what apparently neither side has any right to fight over or discuss, is simply one of our frontier mysteries. As far as we understand it, it is something like this: Suppose Socony dismissed all its agents in the interior for not smoking enough cigarettes and the agents, foreign and Chinese, objected to their dismissal and gathered together a strong armed force with the object of attacking the Shanghai office and the authorities who had unjustly dismissed them, and that the Socony agents in the interior, because they were dismissed, determined to take the Shanghai office by armed force and run the concern themselves.

Why the Tibetans are attacking and why the Chinese are defending is a question of purely local interest. It is neither love for China nor love for Tibet; nor is it the independence of Tibet nor the independence of China, that is causing men at this moment to lay down their lives. The present fighting is leaving us in a state of suspense. If the Tibetans take Tachienlu, what next? If the Third Army can hold their own, again what next?

An S. O. S. from Batang

The present conflict has again thrown the whole interior into chaos. Batang, with close on 20 American residents, is in imminent danger of being annihilated. We received an S. O. S. from them two days ago saying the situation was very serious and they were expecting an attack any day from the Hsiang-cheng-wa. This fierce robber band had its spies on the Batang streets and they were carefully soliciting the help of the commander of the Chinese garrison in Batang to assist them to fight their old enemies the Ra Na Lama and his following. The Europeans in this distant outpost have had all their work cut out simply holding on to Ma Si-ling, the Chinese commander. Should he withdraw, then Batang, with its American and French residents, would be left high and dry in the centre of Asia, without a garrison to proteet them and at the mercy of marauding bands and conflicting factions. In the S. O. S. received two days ago the writer says 'Since Dr. Shelton's murder has not been punished we feel that the robber band would not scruple to kill the rest of us, as they can certainly think they would not be punished. It is disquieting to say the least.'

If the present factions instead of fighting each other and grasping for power would turn their united forces on the large robber bands scattered thoughout Eastern Tibet they would undoubtedly justify their existence and make the country not only safe for Democracy but safe for Chinese and Tibetan merchants.

Like Pilate's Soldiers

Dec. 16.

Most of the people in Tachienlu slept last night like Pilate's soldiers, with one eye open and the other eye shut. The firing between the Chinese and the Tibetans continued till nearly 9 p.m. and then suddenly stopped. Many of the people lay down fully expecting a night attack, the defeat of the Chinese, and the sack of the city by the Tibetans. The city was again heavily guarded, troops being stationed at every stragetic corner, and the order, "fire on sight" was given. At daylight this morning, about 20 sharp rifle shots put the city quickly on its feet. This was followed by a silence of nearly one hour and then intermittent firing continued till about 10 a.m.

Apparently, for some unknown reason, there is now a cessation of hostilities. The streets are being patrolled and the people are assured that the military now have the situation well in hand. The garrisons on the hills immediately above the city are being changed regularly and the troops as far as possible are being kept well and fit for night work. To have got peacefully and quietly through last night is something to be thankful for: the silence and uncertainty were slowly telling on the people.

Old Border Warriors

To-day is another day of glorious frontier weather—brilliant sunshine with clear blue sky over-head: an ideal regatta day, and these woolly Tibetans will persist in disturbing the peace of this border community. If they were fighting for some justifiable cause—freedom or liberty—we might understand their present attack, but they are simply fighting in the attempt to reinstate several hundred old border warriors as masters of the Tibetan Marches. The Third Army are willing to accept General Sen and Han Dao-yuin and the hundreds of old frontier troops who are with them if they will conditionally lay down their arms. We sincerely hope they will and thus no further involve the Tibetans in unnecessary warfare with the Chinese. Should the Tibetans in the present attack suffer defeat and be unable to justify their conduct, we are afraid General Lan, should he invade Tibet, will make the Tibetans pay for their present hostile attitude.

Dec. 17.

But for a few shots fired early this morning the night passed without any fighting.The people in the city are now commanded to open their shops and houses and if they fail to do so will be punished. Shops have opened half their doors but business is "nothing doing." The local people can't just make out what has happened. Official proclamations give out that the attackers have been repulsed and have retired. Yet this side seems to have suffered somewhat heavily; numbers have been killed, numbers have been wounded, and numbers have been taken captive. The Tibetans surrounded a number of soldiers on the mountains and what became of them no one seems to know.

Tachienlu is something like Nanking Road. The Chinese occupy the street and the Tibetans the buildings, and the question is who commands the situation. As far as we can gather both sides have stopped active hostilities and are apparently waiting for reinforcements. General Lan left the city some time ago and has not returned. If he can bring in reinforcements the Third Army may hold its own and establish itself on the frontier. Should General Lan be unable to return then the old border troops will certainly retake Tachienlu with the aid of the Tibetans and again administer the border affairs.

Tibetans Reported Repulsed

Proclamations continue to be posted up in the city. The shop keepers are commanded 'to put lamps outside their doors at night and to see that they are kept lighted; failure to do so will be followed by a fine. A proclamation just pasted up informs the people that the Tibetans have been repulsed and have retired. This if true is good news as it means an end of the present attack and gives an opportunity to breathe freely for a few days and nights at least. The situation behind us towards China is reported in a chaotic condition. The Lolos in conjuction with the old border warriors at Fulin have defeated and scattered the rearguard of General Lan. The Third Army is now high and dry in Tachienlu and their only communication with the outside world is by the small road to Tienchuen and Yachow. The new army, however, in no way feels embarrassed and are trusting to be able to defend the town till supplies and reinforcements arrive. About 80 rifles were carried out of the city yesterday towards China belonging to those who have become *hors de combat*. Casualties are reported on both sides but at no time has the fighting been of a desperate nature. The Tibetans are hidden behind their rugged mountains and spend their time sniping away at the unfortunate Chinese soldiers who come within their reach.

Peacemakers Forced to Fight

Dec. 18.

The two civil officials, Ma and Sen, who were sent along the north and south roads as peacemakers, have been forced to give up their peaceful mission and join in the attack on Tachienlu. We believe the intentions of these two men when they left Tachienlu were to speak peaceful words and if possible use conciliatory methods in inviting the old border warriors to join up with the Third Army. Their peaceful mission has so far not met with success and the old troops have apparently forced them to join arms in the present attack.

The old frontier soldiers, of whom there are some 5,000, maintain that the present Third Army has no right to usurp authority on the Tibetan border. They are asking some very pertinent questions. Whose command are you obeying when you come on to the frontier? To what army do you belong? Who is financing the new army? Is the old army under General Sen unable to maintain peace on the border? Are your marching orders from Peking, Chengtu, or where? Until a satisfactory answer can be given to these important questions the old border warriors are going to hold together and fight if necessary to maintain their position on the frontier.

MYSTERY OF TSINGTAO GOVERNOR

Decoyed Away but Still Officially in Office: Petition to Remove Wen's Squadron

Tsingtao, Jan. 31.

Great interest was aroused yesterday by the report that a group of Shantung gentry, largely from this city, had petitioned Marshal Tuan Chi-jui to remove Admiral Wen Shou-teh's squadron from Tsingtao. The Admiral is concurrently Governor of Kiaochow Territory by virtue of his appointment by the Tupan, General Chen Shih-chi, which, however, has never been ratified by Peking.

So far as the Central Government is concerned Mr. Kao En-hung, who was deposed by the Tupan at the time of Marshal Wu's flight from Tientsin, has never been removed. Very little has been heard of Mr. Kao since he was decoyed away from the Grand Hotel in the middle of November and taken aboard a train bound for Tsinan. The latest report is that he has been conveyed to Tientsin.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HUMOURS OF THE ROAD IN SZECHUAN

Compensations on a Rough and Weary Winter's Journey

FROM OUR MIENCHOW CORRESPONDENT.

Chêngtu, Sze., Jan. 9.

Travel in Szechuan is replete with the "Romance of the Road," a journey never failing to be attended by "incidents" of some sort and passing through picturesque country.

I have just travelled from Mienchow to Chêngtu, where will be held an important missionary general conference on January 12 to 18.

I left Mienchow on the 5th in the first real shower of rain that Mienchow has had for a long period. As we journeyed towards Lokiang the weather grew worse and on the heights between Tsaokopu and Kinshanpu the cold wind blew and snow fell fairly thickly, but not to lie in any quantity. By the time we reached Lokiang a considerable amount of rain had fallen and all along the 280 li to Chêngtu the fall has been general. It is a most welcome downfall; but has not "soaked through" as the Chinese put it. A company of soldiers had been sent to Kinshanpu upon a bandit hunt after a raid which had just taken place there. They signalized their exploits by stealing three umbrellas from school boys!

The rain has been sufficiently heavy to make travelling difficult; and on our second day we fell short of our day's work by 20 li. This landed us for Tuesday night at a market town called Hsiaohanchen, 30 li beyond Tehyang. I have mentioned in previous letters what the local militia are said to be doing in dealing with the bandits. I was now to see them at their work. I had one of their number with me as an "escort" from Tehyang, and by his advice we stayed at Hsiaohanchen, although my own desire was to press on and arrive at Hanchow for the night even if it entailed a little walking after dark. Hsiaohanchen has been a robber stronghold for some time, but the militia are now in possession and we had a quiet night. I had better not expatiate on the condition of the inn as if I did you probably would not print it!

At the Wayside Inn

The next day we got off early. Ten li out our coolies stopped to eat and our escort was very displeased. "This is a bad place for eating: "cudgel guests" (bandits) abound and may come along." "Cheer up," said the restaurant keeper, "they do not come round now. Do you think I would be here with open shop and cooked rice if there was fear of them coming to eat it?" We allowed our coolies to eat a basin-ful for which they paid 140 cash each.

Here we saw some of the inconveniences of flooding the market with the big copper cash. Doubtless the scarcity of 10 and 20 cash pieces nowadays makes for high prices. In one or two cases the cookshop took a few cash less than their price and in others more because of the fact that 50 cash pieces were scarce. I myself changed 200 cash pieces for four fifties to help matters. Twenty years ago on this road chair coolies were content with four cash a li wages and bought a basin of rice for 12 cash; they now require 25 cash a li and pay 140 cash (or 50 if they have no change) for a basin of rice. Our coolies and the "escort" say they saw bandit scouts lurking about among the trees off the high road as we did the last 10 li to Hanchow.

Hanchow is a large city, and was in good condition 20 years ago. It was a place of some importance in the Three Kingdom Period, about 200 A.D. But now it bears the marks of the disorder of the last 10 years of the Republic. The same is true of Sintu, a much smaller city 50 li further on, where we spent the third night. It is 40 li from Chêngtu.

It is four years since I was in Chêngtu and the changes are remarkable; and due entirely to the vigour of Yang Sen.

Yang Sen's Falcons

There is much speculation as to whether Yang will keep his end up. Men who should know say he is getting stronger every day. He is gradually weeding out men who are not whole-heartedly with him. I met him the other day. He was quiet and rather abstracted for the first half hour; but when the talk got on to hawking he brightened up and discussed his birds. He does not fish. He was clearly desirous of forming an opinion from anything I had to tell him about the Mienchow district.

THE BANDIT SCOURGE OF HONAN

Wholesale Butchery of Women and Children

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Chowchiakow, Ho., Jan. 22.

A second lot of soldier-bandits have been operating in this region for some time, but we hear soldiers are at last dealing with them. A week ago these roughs attacked a large village called Yangchai. They had some resistance and failed to get in, so returned with increased force and took the place. They went in for wholesale butchery, and the repeated report is that 2,000 to 3,000 people were killed. These women and children were either killed or burnt in the firing of the place. Two days after the massacre one of our evangelists saw the bodies lying about. Our rich man is still unredeemed although a lot of money and goods have been sent.

OBITUARY

Mr. Sennosuke Yokota

Tokyo, Feb. 4.

The sudden death of Mr. S. Yokota, Minister of Justice, has caused a shock in all quarters, for though previously it was reported that he was sick in bed, it was said to be simply on account of the cold.

The residence of the deceased at Onden, Aoyama, is crowded with a large number of visitors, including the Cabinet Ministers, leaders of all the political parties and other prominent persons in Government offices, etc. Leaders of the Seiyukai Party, of which the late Mr. Yokota was one of the central figures, held an emergency meeting at their headquarters and discussed measures to cope with the situation.

The late Mr. Sennosuke Yokota was born in August, 1870, in Tochigi Prefecture. He graduated from the Tokyo Hogakuin (Chuo University), passed the examination for the Bar and began practice as a lawyer in Tokyo, subsequently being elected to the House of Representatives for Tochigi Prefecture. He has been a leader of the Seiyukai for many years past and was considered the most promising candidate for the future presidency of the party. When the present Kato Cabinet came into existence in June last year, he was appointed Minister of Justice.—Eastern News Agency.

The Political Significance

Tokyo, Feb. 5.

Viscount Takahashi, Minister of Agriculture, has been appointed Acting Minister of Justice.

The death of Mr. Yokota, the late Minister, has aroused much speculation in this morning's newspapers relative to political events, especially in connexion with the Seiyukai Party, of which he was practically the dictator.

Some of the papers express the opinion that the way is now clear for a reunion of the two sections of the party, which, if effected, is regarded as likely to prejudice the destinies of the present Coalition and even of the Ministry itself.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE French Consulate-General has received orders to send back to France for trial the seaman who was arrested on December 15 in possession of 150 rounds of ammunition. Accused is to be deported on the str. Paul Lecat, while two others, arrested on December 27, are also to be brought to trial.

ACCORDING to the "*Mingkuopao*" a large number of Russian "Whites" in Shanghai have offered their services to Gen. Chang Chung-chang and are willing to become naturalized Chinese citizens. On Tuesday, the journal goes on to say, 60 Russians were enlisted and sent to Wusih for service.

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U. S. IMMIGRATION AND JAPAN

Indications that Tokyo Seeks to Reopen the Question: A Case for Fair Play

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tokyo, Jan. 25.

That Japan is not inclined to regard the immigration issue as a closed chapter in history has been perceptible ever since the new law enacted last year. Statements, albeit guarded but inspired, have been time and again made to that effect in the press and there is ample proof that the Government is behind the efforts made by the press, the pulpit and the platform to keep the issue alive, so that the alleged slur may some day be removed.

There is, however, no sentiment, worth taking notice of, to make the immigration issue a cause for recklessness. The first talk of war, immediately the bill was passed, was simply the blowing of steam. Today, the immigration issue still continues to be a prolific source for talk and for newspaper and magazine articles, but matters are approached from a much more reasonable angle.

The Last Not Heard of It

Those who thought that Japan was willing to regard the immigration issue as a closed incident have forgotten that, after former Ambassador Hanihara of "grave consequences" fame presented his historic note to Secretary of State Hughes, he added that a more formal protest would be made at a more opportune time. Then, Mr. Tsuneo Matsudaira, Japan's new ambassador to Washington, it is reported, has been instructed to reopen the question with the American Government, through diplomatic channels, as soon as he sees a proper opportunity for so doing.

On top of all this Baron Shidehara, speaking in the Diet to-day, declared unequivocally that Japan cannot consent to accept the view that the last has been heard on the immigration issue. At the same time, he told the representatives of the people that no advantage would accrue from making a protest now.

"It is obvious," he said, "that the resumption of conversations or discussions between Japan and America in connexion with the immigration tangle would do no one any good at this time. Japan and America must co-operate in keeping the Pacific peaceful.

"The views of the Japanese Government, however, in regard to the discriminatory clause of the United States Immigration Act of 1924 remain unaltered. A law cannot be altered or modified except by another law, and it must be borne in mind by all of us that, according to the constitution of the United States, the power of making laws does not lie in the hands of the executive.

Fairplay's a Jewel

"The question thus still remains in an unsettled state. I believe that the spirit of justice and fairplay that kindled American independence and made it the power it is to-day will win out in the end. Impassioned or impetuous utterances are of no avail. In fact, these will only hinder progress. Our cause is just, and the main thing is to do all we can to make the American people have a correct understanding of our side of the controversy. The day will come when America will see this and understand us and then will things be righted."

CHINA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Peking, Feb. 2.

Marshal Chang Tso-lin has telegraphed to the Government, urging the carrying out of the formal Sino-Russian negotiations as soon as possible and pointing out that Manchuria is keenly interested in these negotiations.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ACCORDING to the Chinese press, the Japanese Government has presented China with a claim for $150,000 for damages alleged to have been sustained by Japanese subjects during the recent mutiny in Kalgan. Peking is considering it.

THE SIGNING OF THE SOVIET-JAPANESE TREATY

In Mr. Yoshizawa's bedroom. The Japanese Minister had recently been hurt in a skating accident. Comrade Karakhan, the Soviet Ambassador, is at the little table. The officer behind the end of the bed is, we believe, ex-Colonel Gekker.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE TREATY SEEN FROM JAPAN

When the Gilt Comes off the Gingerbread: Small Hopes of Trade But Plenty of Communist Propaganda

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tokyo, Jan. 23.

A chorus of approval has gone up from every corner of the Empire that Russia and Japan are once again about to resume normal relations.

This chorus is from the press which has been for years working up a sentiment to have the Imperial Japanese Government shake hands with Moscow, and, therefore, does not represent the opinion of the entire nation. As a matter of fact there are powerful interests which are sceptical as to whether Japan will gain very much from a resumption of trading relations, while yet others fear that Japan has only drawn a step closer towards bringing on herself the troubles of discontent and dissatisfaction with the existing social order that Russia has so notoriously fostered in herself and amongst other peoples.

It is expected that the treaty will be ratified about the middle of February. The ratification of treaties is a prerogative of the Emperor, who, in the final instance, is advised not by the Cabinet, but by the Privy Council and the Elder Statesmen as to whether to append the royal seals or not. The Privy Council, reinforced by some of the acutest brains of the land, is busy studying the document from every possible angle. Some are far from inclined to give the Government much credit for engineering this document. They are afraid that it may turn out to be more a diplomatic blunder than a diplomatic victory.

The Soviet Propaganda

It is true that the Soviet has given promises that no propaganda, subversive of the existing social order in Japan, will be indulged in. But then, the Soviet has given such promises to other lands and the world knows how well she has kept them. There is, for instance, the revelation of Soviet-fostered conspiracies in India. Then, there is the more recent matter of the Zinovieff letter which cost British Labour its Prime Ministerial throne. Such being the case, not much store is set by Soviet promises.

Legal machinery is already being devised with this very end in view. While Premier Kato was felicitating himself, his Foreign Office staff and the nation over the bridging of the gulf which existed between Japan and Russia hitherto, his Minister of Justice was simultaneously working on a bill which is euphemistically termed a measure "for the maintenance of order." As a matter of fact, it is a bill devised to meet just the possible contingencies that the resumption of relations with the Soviet might bring about.

This bill, among other thing, your correspondent understands, will make all secret societies illegal, will impose deterrent fines and drastic periods of imprisonment on anyone receiving money for unknown reasons from foreign lands, and will immediately furnish the police with special powers to dissolve the numerous radical and labour associations that flourish in one guise or another. The radical conservative associations, like the anti-Bolshevik Union, it is presumed, will continue to be winked at.

The Trade Fallacy

As regards trade with Russia, the bigger merchants doubt whether very much can be made from their nearest European neighbour. As a matter of fact, Russia never did purchase much from Japan. The biggest export bill Japan ever had with Russia was in 1916 and even then, despite the purchase here of large quantities of ammunition by the Romanoff regime, this did not excess Y.100,000,000. To-day with Russian purchasing power less than a fraction of what it was under the Tsarist rule, it is impossible for Japan to do much in regard to trade. But, of course, Japan has gained big advantages in regard to the concessions she received in Saghalien and the concessions she is sure to receive in the Maritime provinces of Siberia and the Siberian coast fisheries.

And what of the Russians here? The former Russian embassy, once the scene of many a proud pageant, and which has been in sad neglect and disrepair for years, presented a bustling sight of intensive packing as soon as the news reached Japan that the pact had been signed. When the Soviet Ambassador arrives here—and it is here believed that comrade Joffe will be the first—he will come into a badly-neglected and earthquake-battered building, for that is what the "L'Ancieene Ambassade Russe," as the Diplomatic List calls it, is today. This is about all the Soviet will possess of Russian property in Japan.

Church Property Safe

The Russian Orthodox Mission's property here is safe from any sequestration or confiscation. Your correspondent paid a visit to the Nikolai cathedral, headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church in Japan, and learnt that the buildings of the Mission belong to a juridical person, and that this "juridical person" never was the Embassy, but is represented by Bishop Sergy, the founder of the Nikolai cathedral, and a Japanese convert to the Russian religious persuasion of the name of Mitsui. The cathedral was burnt during the quake-fires and all that remains today is a green-and-white wooden building. Thus, Russian churches here will be spared what has happened to the chapel attached to the Russian Legation in Peking.

FENGTIEN ADVANCING ON CHEKIANG

Sun Chuan-fang Preparing to Defend His Lands

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Kashing, Feb. 1.

Information comes from Chinese sources, that Fengtien soldiers have come south from Soochow on the Grand Canal to Pingmang, a large market town in Kiangsu about 20 miles from Kashing or only 10 miles from the border of Chêkiang at Wangchiangching.

Pingmang is important as the point from which steam launches and large boats go west towards Huchow, and is at the head of a canal giving alternate water route to Hangchow. It is also close to Tai-hu and has good water connection with Shanghai.

About 1,000 soldiers are said to have gone from Kashing this morning to Wangchiangching to protect the border of Chêkiang from the rumoured advance from Soochow.

Conflicting reports say that Marshal Sun Chuan-fang has himself anticipated Fengtien by sending 1,500 soldiers to Pingmang to protect his water route from Kashing to Huchow, Chang-hshing and I-Hsing, as low water impedes movements over other shorter canals.

The writer is unable to verify either of the above rumours. It is known that numerous launch trains of soldiers have passed from Kashing in the direction of Huchow. The soldiers (not officers) repeatedly said they were going on to Nanking. Out of all the talk, one thing seems to be agreed on locally, that is: Marshal Sun Chuan-fang is at least making an effort to protect what he regards as his territory from defeated Kiangsu troops or any Fengtien advance into Chêkiang. Special trains have carried representatives to Hangchow for negotiations, and it is hoped that peace is about to be assured, but no surprise if further fighting occurs.

RIOTOUS BEHAVIOUR IN JAPANESE DIET

Members and Guardsmen now Nursing Broken Heads: Protection for the Speaker

Tokyo, Feb. 3.

When the sitting of the Lower House was resumed following the temporary recess, the motion for the punishment of Messrs. Hara and Makiyama, two members, was carried by a large majority of votes, 272 to 134.

Mr. Inoge, of the Independent Party, after obtaining the Speaker's permission to speak, then went on to the platform and declared that his speech had nothing to do with the progress of proceedings, which incurred the fierce opposition of the Government parties, thus throwing the hall into confusion once again.

The Speaker warned Mr. Inoge more than once, but the latter went on speaking without taking any notice of the warning. Accordingly the Speaker ordered him to leave the hall, but in vain. Thereupon, some guardsmen came up and attempted to carry him out, but the attempt was prevented by a number of M. Ps. of the Seiyuhonto. In the course of this scuffle, Messrs. Ohishi and Kira, Seiyuhonto M. Ps., assaulted Mr. Nishimura, Vice-Chief of Guardsmen, wounding him in the occipital region.

On the other hand, when Mr. Inoge was about to be driven out of the hall by five or six guardsmem, several foolhardly members of the Kenseikai and Seiyukai, the two Government parties, dashed forward and assailed him, inflicting wounds on his head and face.

In these circumstances, the Speaker once more announced a recess.

On the resumption after the second recess, the Speaker announced that Mr. Inoge was to be punished and that those who did violence to the guardsmen were to be dealt with after due investigation.

A Second Disturbance

Mr. Unpei Takata, of the Kenseikai, next spoke, expressing opposition to the Bill for the increase of expenses for compulsory education. Upon the conclusion of his speech, the Kenseikai Party presented a motion for the termination of the debate, with the consequence that the Seiyuhonto (the Opposition), taken by surprise, started another disturbance, their plan having been frustrated.

A Seiyuhonto member attempted to run up to the seat of the Speaker, but was prevented by guardsmen. The Speaker asked all present to express their approval of the motion by standing up, but the Seiyuhonto opposed the method, and as there were some belonging to the Seiyukai who also had not a full understanding about the motion, the Speaker put it to the vote, with the result that the motion was carried by a majority of 259 to 135. The debate was thus brought to an end.

The Bill for the increase of educational expenditure, on being put to the vote, was turned down by 264 to 131.—Eastern News Agency.

Tokyo, Feb. 4.

Three members of Parliament who were implicated in the disturbance that took place in the Diet last night have been suspended for a fortnight.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AID FOR ST. PAUL'S BY HONGKONG A.D.C.

Hongkong, Feb. 3.

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club are giving an extra performance of "St. Joan" in aid of the St. Paul's Cathedral Restoration Fund.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MARSHAL Feng Yu-hsiang's party have intimated to Marshal Tuan that their chief will assume his post as Tupan of the Northwestern Frontiers if Mongolia and the Three Special Areas (Jehol, Charhar and Suiyuan) are placed under his control. As Mongolia and Jehol are being controlled at present by Marshal Chang Tso-lin and his subordinates, no action has been taken.

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VICTIM OF SHANGHAI KIDNAPPERS

Abduction of Yenchow Boy: $10,000 Paid by Parents for His Release

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Yenchow, Chê., Jan. 19.

A lamentable kidnapping case has just occurred. For some months a young doctor was greatly perturbed on receiving a stream of threatening letters from the "Kidnapping the rich band" and committed suicide. Not long ago, this same band entered a rich man's house some five miles from the city and carried off a 15-year-old boy.

There was a struggle and a servant was shot dead, while several others were seriously injured. Some days after a letter was received from Shanghai giving instructions as to forwarding ransom money and so forth. A deputation of three men from the district undertook the negotiations. Proceeding to Shanghai they were instructed to advertise in a certain newspaper stating where they might be found, and in due course they would be waited upon. Their mission proved an exciting adventure. A certain individual connected with the gang took them in lead. They relate how they were taken by motor-car, and after a circuitous ride, were hustled into another with screened windows. Eventually they found themselves in a small courtyard and were immediately ushered into a room where some "guests" with loaded revolvers awaited them. The business of handing over the money was soon transacted and the missing boy was brought forward. The gang then demanded the retention of one of the party, saying that he would be released on receipt of word that the others had reached Yenchow in safety. An extra $1,000 "release money'" was also claimed. The remainder of the party, after a rambling ride in a motor-car, were set down near the Bund in the French Concession. This stirring little event has cost the family, I understand, the best part of $10,000.

Ancient Mine to Be Worked

On the borders of Yenchow and the Shuenan County an ancient iron mine has been re-opened. It is situated in a beautiful spot right among the hills not far away from the famous stone quarry. Foreign experts have examined the workings and report favourably on the scheme. A company has been formed and the largest shareholders, I hear, hail from Hangchow and Peking.

Troops Concentrating at Hangchow

Once more boats and men are being requisitioned for the transport of Gen. Sun Chuan-fang's forces, contingents of which were brought from the Kiangsi border in a very sorrowful condition by forced marches. Fleets of river craft are going downstream to Hangchow, loaded to the gunwales with troops. Most of the 7th Division of the Chêkiang Army which pretended to make a stand against the Fukienese fighting for the Chihli Government in the early days of Kiangsu-Chêkiang war last September, have been hurried off to the provincial capital. These men had been in camp at Kinhua during the winter and now hoist the flag of their former enemy, the victorious Gen. Sun.

Currency Vagaries

Since the advent of the Fukien army this district has been deluged with a currency that beggars description. The Japanese Yen is in circulation and also dollars from Hongkong and the Straits Settlements. A former proclamation notified the shopkeepers that some Kiangsi paper money would be tendered.

As a result of Marshal Tuan Chi-jui's amnesty, the doors of the prisons have been thrown open and a large number of offenders are now rejoicing in freedom. Rumours are current that Gen. Sun has suggested that the taxes for the coming Chinese year shall also be remitted, if the people of Chêkiang remain favourable to his rule.

Over 15 inches of snow fell in this district recently.

PEKING'S FINANCES

Government again Behind-hand with Payments

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Peking, Jan. 23.

Another New Year settlement day is to be passed by the Chinese Government without paying more than a fraction of its obligations. The amount raised this year is probably the lowest on record, though the Government is deeper in debt than any of its predecessors. The Minister of Finance, Li Shi-hao, reports that he has raised some three and a half million dollars from various sources, principally from the Salt and Customs funds. First claimants, of course, are the military, the local commands getting about 70 per cent. of a month's pay. The local police also benefit in this percentage, while the Navy receives a round $300,000. The teachers in the Government schools have been paid 60 per cent. of their monthly salaries, and, last on the list, civil servants, have had 40 per cent. doled out to them. All these people are very much in arrears in the payment of their pay or salaries, but a part of a month's remuneration is all they can expect.

Remarking on the poverty of the new year's settlement of these accounts, the "North China Standard" says:—"The Chinese Government, which in former years still made frantic attempts to pay its employees all that was due them on settling day, has long given up the struggle as hopeless. Only two or three years ago sums of 10 to 20 million dollars were regarded as absolutely necessary to settle acounts. To-day the Government regards itself as fortunate, having scraped together three millions and a half. . . were there no Customs and Salt services the Chinese Government would not have a miserly million to pay its officials with."

KASHING THE HIGHROAD OF SOLDIERS

Low Water Impedes Movement

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Kashing, Chê., Jan. 28.

Our city is outwardly quiet but inwardly anxious. As fast as possible soldiers have come on the railway, transferred to boats and hurried on to Huchow, Changhsing and the Ihsing front. Urgency from that section is followed by reports of fighting the advance of Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang's thrust west of the Tai-hu. (Great Lake) The Kashing defences were augmented by the arrival of more than 1,000 well equipped soldiers this afternoon from Hangchow. The approach of Fengtien troops from Soochow along the Grand Canal to Kashing has not yet been confirmed. The train from Shanghai North Station did not arrive, but the section from South Station did come in late. Telegraph lines viâ Soochow were cut for a time, but opened again under censorship after Fengtien army had taken that city.

Whether Marshal Sun only planned to defend Chêkiang or concentrate troops at Huchow to make a flank movement on Marshal Lu at Wusih or a drive towards Nanking is not yet clear, but in any case, extremely low water in the canals has impeded movements.

Our local district magistrate is at his wit's end to make provision for passing soldiers. The Chamber of Commerce is in a state of financial collapse from overstrain. Banks and big business very nervous. Requests for refuge in the mission compound on the increase. The postal service functions as usual. Trains late.

CANTON'S UNEMPLOYED A SERIOUS ISSUE

Canton, Jan. 29.

Unemployment in Fatshan and other cities near Canton, as well as Canton proper, since the China New Year is causing considerable alarm to those who understand the problem. On account of the uncertainty of the local situation, many shops have curtailed their appointment of *fokis*, or assistants, some discharging as many as 50 per cent. of their employees.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BLOODSHED AT HUPEH COLLIERY

Senseless Fight and Many Fatalities: Iron-works Hard Hit by War

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tayeh, Hup., Jan. 20.

To the Mission Hospital here at the approach of the Chinese New Year were brought three men wounded in an affray at the Tanshanwan Colliery 60 li away. One of these had his head bound up and was soon able to return home. For the two others there was no hope from the first. One of these bled to death in spite of all that was done for him and his corpse had to be carried away a few days later, as also did that of the second victim.

Theese were but three of a large number who were injured in a senseless quarrel. It seems a school was being built by the powerful Huang clan. Bricks, tiles, etc., had to be carried from a lake a few li away. Naturally the Huang coolies wanted to use the shortest cut, which unfortunately lay through the colliery grounds. Their passage was resisted, but as the brick carriers were more numerous than the coal carriers and moreover not only used coolie poles but also spears to drive home their claim, they seemed likely to win the day. The colliery people, however, possessed armed watchmen and the latter began to show fight and used their rifles, wounding men of the other side. This brought all the Huangs on the scene. So fierce did the fight then become that dead and wounded of both sides lay on the ground.

Eighteen were killed on the scene of battle. The wounded were also numerous. Soldiers from Wusueh and Huangchow have had to be brought to the place to keep the peace. The District Magistrate declares himself unable to fasten the guilt on any person or persons in particular and wishes the combatants to consider the account as settled. Whether he has given the Huangs the right of way that they claim I have not heard, but I think he must have done as the alternative route was much further round and the school to be built was a worthy object.

Tayeh Ironworks Again

The one blast furnace at the Tayeh Ironworks is still kept going but its existence is precarious. The supply of coal from Honan has long been cut off and that from Hunan is fitful and liable to cease any day. Besides there is the ever present burden of debt which means that no profit to the company can accrue from the output of pig-iron. One does not wish to impute mismanagement, but would rather attribute the misfortunes of this company to the disturbed state of the country bringing in its train broken communications and high prices and high wages. In consequence a great business enterprise like this, employing thousands of skilled workmen, is in danger of coming to a standstill.

THE FABIUS CUNCTATOR OF KUANGTUNG

Gen. Chen Still Going to Fight Against Dr. Sun

Canton, Jan. 22.

General Chen Chiung-ming is expected to arrive at Waichow on January 27, after which date hostilities are expected against Dr. Sun Yat-sen's followers in the districts east of Canton.

A division of General Chen's troops, under General Lin Fu, has already moved to Yungyun with the apparent intention of descending upon the Kuangtung Section of the Canton--Hankow Railway so as to cut off Dr. Sun's Northern Expeditionary Army from its Canton base.

It is stated that General Fan Shek-shang, commander of the second Yunnanese corps, will, with his corps, replace the first corps in the defence of Fatshan. This movement is being interpreted in some quarters as implying that General Fan is not wholehearted in the cause of the Kuomintang and that therefore it has been considered best to transfer him and his men from the City of Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A CHEKIANG MONSTER

Like a Six-Legged Caterpillar with Lights of Glow-worm

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Taichow, Chê., Jan. 23.

A few weeks ago two of us were walking down the side of one of Taichow's high hills. It was dusk, when suddenly our attention was attracted by what appeared at first sight to be a lady's ornament shining on the ground. On picking it up I found it was alive. It seemed to be devouring or being devoured by a centipede. After getting home and thoroughly examining it, I found it was holding tight the skin of a centipede which had been cast off by its owner. In shape it was like a caterpillar, about three inches long, having six legs. There were 11 black sort of shields on its back, with yellow bands in between them. What was most remarkable about it was the 30 violet lights, placed at regular intervals down the centre of the back and on each side. Tiny little lights resembling, each of them, the light displayed by a fire-fly. I showed it to various people, both Chinese and foreigners, but none of them had ever seen anything like it before. So far I have been unable to find out what it is, and am preserving it in pure alcohol, hoping I may meet with someone who can inform me. As it gradually died all the lights on its body died away.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN KIANGSU

The following new appointments have been published by the Chinese authorities:—

Gen. Chin Yuan-wu, councillor to the First Fengtien Army, to become Defence Commissioner of Soochow and Changchow.

Col. Shang Chi-ying to be Commissioner of Shanghai and Woosung Police in succession to Col. Wang Kuo-pang.

Col. Shen Pao-yi to be Commissioner of Kiangsu Water Police, succeeding Gen. Yang Tsun-pu.

Mr. Wang Yi-kang to be Taoyin of Shanghai, in succession to Mr. Wen Shih-tsen.

Mr. Li Tsu-kuei to be District Magistrate of Shanghai. Pending Mr. Li's arrival Mr. Ying Kuei-shen is to act.

Mr. Li Hou-tso to be Director of the Chapei Tax and Public Works Bureau.

Mr. Tsu Yuan-tu to be chief of the Shanghai Revenue Office.

Gen. Lui Chen to be Director of the Repatriation Bureau with headquarters in Nantao.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Han Kuo-chun has appointed for the post of Commissioner of Police a well-known cotton mill owner, Mr. H. Y. Moh, who is a returned student from America, and Mr. Hsu-Yuan, former Foreign Commissioner, as acting Taoyin of Shanghai and the Huhai District.

Mr. Fu Wen-tung, former District Magistrate of Paoshan is reappointed to the post.

At a Cabinet meeting two days ago it was decided to relieve Mr. Yao Yu, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs at Nanking, of his post and to appoint Mr. Yu Tzun, a well-known Cantonese gentleman who was formerly Salt Commissioner for Chêkiang Province, to the post of Salt Commissioner for North Kiangsu in succession to Mr. Ting Nai-yang.

MIXED MANDATES

Peking, Feb. 2.

Mandates issued to-day appoint General Chang Tso-chang Field-Marshal; abolish the posts of Tupan and co-director of the Huai River Conservancy; and also approve of the memorial requesting the suspension of the Peking Academy of Fine Arts.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ANOTHER CANTON LEVY

Canton, Jan. 29.

It is reported that the Kuomintang War Funding Commissary has decided to levy an inspection fee on imported kerosene oil.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

REASON FOR DELAY ON HUKUANG LOAN

Government Said Not Involved but Agencies at Variance: Payment now Reported

London, Feb. 3.

The financial correspondents of newspapers comment warmly on the failure to pay the December coupon of the German portion of the Hukuang Railway's five per cent. loan, notwithstanding the official removal of the embargo last year. It is understood that the necessary funds are available, but the delay is due to differences between the Chinese Government and the distributing agencies.

The newspapers hope that for the sake of the bondholders and China's credit, steps will be taken promptly to end the delay.

Feb. 4.

With regard to the comments of financial correspondents of newspapers on China's failure to pay the December coupon of the German portion of the Hukuang Railway Five Per Cent. Loan, Mr. Chen Wei-cheng, Secretary of the Chinese Legation, writes to "The Times" stating that the delay in payment is not due to differences between the Chinese Government and their distributing agencies but between the agents themselves.

The City Editor of "The Times" says that this explanation vindicates the Chinese Government, but increases the impatience of bondholders, who fail to understand why they should be the victims of discrimination. He points out, however, that the bonds of other German issues of Chinese loans also remain unpaid, namely, the Tientsin-Pukow Railway Loan of 1908 and the Tientsin-Pukow Supplementary Loan.—Reuter.

Local Report of Payment

Local advices yesterday were to the effect that the coupon of the loan had now been paid.

NORTHERN FAMINE RELIEF WORK

A Hundred Thousand People Being Helped

Grants totalling $149,000 were made at the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the China International Famine Relief Commission for the relief of the distress due to the severe floods of the past summer. Of this sum $95,000 was designated for Chihli Province and $40,000 for the Metropolitan District, or a total of $135,000 for the Peking-Paotingfu-Tientsin area, and $14,000 for Hunan. In accordance with the policy of the Commission, these funds will be used on a loan basis, part of them being devoted to dyke repair and the remainder for seed and reconstruction loans.

Telegraphic advices have reached the head office that more than 9,000 men are now at work in Kiangsi Province where the Commission's labour relief policy is being carried out through the employment of able bodied members of refugee families on dyke repair work. This means that counting dependents a total of 45,000 people are receiving relief in Kiangsi at present. During February 20,000 labourers will be engaged or a total of 100,000 will receive relief—this in addition to the repair of the dyke system whose failure caused the summer floods.

THE following short leader is taken from the "New York World," commenting on dispatches concerning the executions recently held at Kalgan: "There is something grotesquely horrible in the news from China that 1,554 Chinese soldiers have been stood in line and shot down by firing squads. This is not organized killing on the scale of war, but it is perhaps the greatest military execution of modern history, revolting to minds accustomed to think as ours do, because it is wholesale killing dissociated from the heat of conflict. Of these executions there is only this to be said 9,000 miles away from China: amateur statesmen in this country are fond of saying that what China needs is a dictator with a strong hand; well, here at last is a strong hand. What will it do for the peace of China?"

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ARCHDEACON MOULE

Farwell to China After 37 Years of Ningpo

With the departure to-day for Home of the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Moule, there will be no male representative left in China—although we believe there is still a Miss Moule "somewhere in the interior"—of a family that has been famous for very many decades in Chinese missionary and educational work.

Archdeacon W. S. Moule was the nephew of Bishop Moule and son of another Archdeacon, well remembered by the older residents, who wrote some of the most charming verse in one of the most abominably crabbed handwritings that ever came into this office. The present Archdeacon is a younger brother of Arthur, and an elder of Willie Moule, the latter headmaster of the Anglo-Chinese School and a fine cricketer and athlete, who retired to England a few months ago.

From Monkton Combe in Somerset Archdeacon Moule went, according to family tradition, to Corpus College, Cambridge, and from there (also according to tradition) he came, 37 years ago, to Ningpo as Vice-Principal of Trinity College under Mr. Hore, afterwards Bishop of Hongkong, who met his death by drowning when out in a mission launch in the great typhoon of 1906. Archdeacon Moule succeeded him as Principal of the College and Theological School attached to it, and in this quiet abode he has remained all through the 37 years, training young Chinese as pastors and schoolteachers.

The Boxer Year

He says himself that his life has been lacking in adventure excepting always for the Boxer year when indeed it was "touch and go" for the missionaries. The Governor of Ningpo received two telegrams from Peking—illustrative of the divided counsels which swayed the Empress Dowager's Court—one telling him to protect the missionaries, the other to kill them. He took these to the Commissioner of Customs, a German named Mollendorff, who advised him to act upon the first. So the Governor did. Yet at Juchow in Chêkiang the missionaries were slaughtered and Archdeacon Moule says that even in Ningpo a foreigner going through the streets would hear angry cries of "kill, kill." He remembers one night when, going to the classroom, he found that, instead of the usual cheerful uproar, there was "a silence that might be felt." He was told that that night the massacre was believed to be going to take place. The chief preoccupation of the time, he says, was to get all the boys and girls from the College (they were Christians of course) back to their homes. Somehow it was managed, by devious ways and with great difficulty.

Even in these times Archdeacon Moule says that there was never any shadow of personal hostility from Chinese to foreigners whom they knew. He and his family resolved to go for the summer to a little mountain cottage to be out of the way: and here, among people who knew them, it would never have been supposed that all China was in a turmoil. But they heard that a flight from Ningpo was beginning and so back they went to do what they could to check panic.

Like all who know the Chinese Archdeacon Moule speaks of them with the deepest affection, whether they were fellow workers or merely business acquaintance. Just before he left Ningpo, the head of the Chair Hong (with whose members more than any, perhaps, there are likely to be altercations over fares) came and presented him with a vast basket of eggs. It was not exactly a convenient present, but the intention was too kindly for it to be refused.

Confucianism's Influence

It may be permissible to add that Archdeacon Moule deplores the abolition of the teaching of Confucianism. It made the Chinese familiar with certain ethical standards, hallowed by antiquity, which they always recognized even if they did not always practise them. Now these standards have been taken away and nothing put in their place and the result is a certain moral decay which cannot but be noticed.

The Anti-Christian movement spread to Ningpo in December. There were violent articles in the newspapers and on Christmas Day leaflets were distributed, of an inflammatory kind, denouncing missionaries as "enemies of science and the vanguard of imperialism" and calling for the destruction of the "evil people who have devoured the doctrine." Archdeacon Moule was asked to reply to the leaflets, but he did not think that anything would be gained by entering into a controversy. It is, one might say, a sound doctrine, which, if oftener practised, would spare much trouble: and indeed the agitation at Ningpo appears to have died down.

Archdeacon and Mrs. Moule leave many friends both Chinese and foreign in China, from whom they carry the best of wishes for many years of happiness in England.

THE VEN. ARCHDEACON MOULE LOOKS BACK

NINE MILLION BIBLES

American Bible Society's Distribution in 1924

Nearly nine and a half million copies of scripture were circulated in China during 1924. This is indicated in the report of The American Bible Society sent to New York last week, which organization shares with the British & Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland in this stupendous task. This is an increase of nearly two millions over the previous year. The circulation of the American Bible Society's China Agency was 22,152 Bibles, 50,304 New Testaments, and 2,479,375 Portions. This is a new record and exceeds the figure of circulation by the parent Society in the United States for the preceding year.

The report further shows that the local receipts from sale of books exceeds by more than $4,000 that of 1923, although the price of many publications was lowered at the beginning of the year. Features of the work have been the publication of a Family Record Bible,—the first in China; a combination character and phonetic script gospel, and four gospels in one volume; and the undertaking of a Pulpit Bible to be published jointly by the three Bible Societies. Revisions of the Soochow and Canton Colloquial New Testaments have also been made by joint committees at work in these two cities.

During the year the American Bible Society has moved into spacious new quarters on the ground floor of the Missions Building, facing Yuen Ming Yuen Road. This provides attractive salesroom and offices, and adequate storage facilities; and at the same time places the Society where it is readily found by visitors to the city. In Hankow, also, new premises have been acquired in the splendid new Lutheran Building facing Whiteaway and Laidlaw's store.

CHILD TORN ASUNDER BY BANDITS

Case of Savage Barbarity Reported from North Kiangsu

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Suchien, N. Ku., Jan. 19.

The soldiers who left hurriedly some weeks ago have just been replaced by another six *ying*. During the absence of the former it was soon apparent that the bandits had returned from the "war." Night after night one heard the familiar sound of rifle shots. Many of the country people at night left their homes to seek refuge in the mud walled villages.

Abour 10 *li* from Butsi, a market town not far from here, a dastardly attack was made on a home. A marriage was being celebrated and the guests were many. The bandits belonged to the Big Knife Society and they had a grudge against the family. They entered the home and report has it that there were about 100 of the brigands, who killed about 200 persons. A son of the unfortunate family had his head dashed on to a mill stone, and a little girl was torn in two. These fiends are stated to be soldiers by day and brigands by night.

The six *ying* of troops just mentioned were welcomed by flags hung out at shop doors—"discretion is the better part of valour."

Suchien has been cut off from the outer world for nearly three weeks. It is only since the last day or two that mails have been coming through.

EXPLOSION AT WUSIH

Big Godown Full of Munitions: Panic in the City

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Wusih, Feb. 2.

About nine last night a tremendous panic was caused in and about the city by the explosion and burning of a freight godown where large quantities of ammunition were stored. The sound of firing was incessant, and the people, convinced that a battle, to be succeeded by looting, was beginning, rushed into the foreign compounds in great numbers.

The news of what the trouble really was gradually spread, and by 11 p.m. all but those most constitutionally and incurably timorous had returned to their homes. The cause of the fire is unknown and while the inevitable sinister rumours are afloat, the opinion of most people is that it was an accident.

Some railway carriages near the scene of the fire were burned.

AVIATION TRAGEDY AT HONGKONG

European's Fatal Leap from Aeroplane in Parachute: Drowned in Harbour

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Hongkong, Jan. 24.

Quite a gloom has been cast over a wide circle in the Colony this evening by the sad death of Mr. Reginald Earnshaw, formerly of the Hongkong Police, who was drowned in the harbour after leaping from an aeroplane, in a parachute, during "stunts" which were being carried out this afternoon in connexion with the inauguration of the "Abbot Flying School".

This flying school has been started by the American aviator of whom I have previously written, who hopes, when conditions improve, to start a mail and passenger service by aeroplane between Hongkong and Shanghai. Two or three local sportsmen are reported to have put up the capital for this school, which is designed to teach would-be pilots, as well as bring in revenue from people who desire to see Hongkong from the air at the rate of a dollar a minute. Later, Mr. Harry Abbot, the American aviator in question, intends to obtain two extra machines from Manila and increase the activities of his school-though this afternoon's tragedy is likely to have an adverse effect on the enterprise, at any rate for a time.

The opening ceremony had been largely advertised, both in the local Press and by means of handbills distributed from the air during preliminary flights. The aeroplane used was a new one which Messrs. Abbot and Earnshaw obtained at Manila last month when they gave an exhibition there. The services of Mr. Henry Young, a competent Chinese pilot from Canton, had also been engaged.

The proceedings commenced about 2.30 this afternoon, when the machine, which has a large picture of "Felix the Cat" painted on it, was named Felix with the customary ceremony by Miss M. Alves. A large crowd, mostly Chinese on holiday for the New Year, witnessed the Chinese pilot and Mr. Abbot carry out various evolutions in the air, including looping the loop and the "leaf drop". Several prospective passengers, including an American lady, awaited the conclusion of the "stunting". Everything seemed to be going most favourably-and then came tragedy.

Fall into the Sea

The final item on the programme of aerial evolutions was a parachute drop by Mr. Earnshaw. The machine rose to a height of nearly 2000 feet, and then the aeronaut jumped out. It was observed that he had waited until over the harbour, some distance from the Kowloon City reclamation, where the display was being held. The parachute opened quickly, and Mr. Earnshaw came down very gracefully. It was altogether a beautiful descent, but dangerous owing to absence of special precautions against drowning. Apparently it was expected that the descent would be made over the land. Nevertheless, no-one who saw the passenger come down slowly on to the water about a quarter of a mile from shore expected the sad result which actually occurred. When a motor-boat reached the spot a few minutes later, the parachute had disappeared with its passenger, and the painful truth that he had been drowned was immediately apparent. Only his cap was recovered, the parachute having sunk beneath the surface.

The late Mr. Earnshaw went up evidently prepared to come down on land, for he was dressed in full airman's outfit, and was wearing hervy boots of knee length. It must have been impossible for him to keep afloat when he found himself in the water.

A particularly affecting feature of the accident was the presence on the aviation field of the deceased's brother, Mr. Claude Earnshaw, to whom he had waved as he descended near *terra firma*. The brothers were very much attached, and had both been in the local police force up to sometime last year. They had both seen service during the war, the late Mr. R. Earnshaw as an Air Force mechanic.

After leaving the police, the deceased had been manager of the Kai Tack Motor Bus Company, of Kowloon, for about a year. Of a very obliging disposition, and a motoring and aviation enthusiast, he had volunteered his assistance to Mr. Abbot from the outset of the latter's flying activities in the Colony. He was largely responsible for the successful repairing of the old Curtis biplane which was flown a year or so ago, until it came to grief in an attempt to fly it in gusty weather.

After the tragedy, the afternoon's programme naturally came to an abrupt conclusion, many of those present undertaking to search for the aeronaut's body, while others brought the news to town, where it was received with the greatest regret by the deceased's large circle of friends and acquaintances, who mourn his sad end at the early age of 25. Up to a late hour this evening the body had not been recovered.

CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY

Peking's Complaint to the Soviet

Peking, Jan. 30.

A mandate states that Mr. Wang Nai-ping, Tupan of the Chinese Eastern Railway, gave up his post some time ago, whereupon Mr. C. C. Wang was appointed Acting Tupan but he subsequently tendered his resignation. These officials are now relieved of their posts and General Pao Kwei-ching is appointed Tupan.

Feb. 4.

Chinese agencies report that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to M. Karakhan, the Soviet Plenipotentiary, containing a warning against the high-handed policy of the Soviet managing director of the Chinese Eastern Railway "which must be stopped, otherwise serious consequences will follow.'"

The note is said to complain of the manner in which the Soviet managing director is monopolizing the affairs of the railway and ignoring the views of the Chinese directors.

The note confirms other reports current of the growing friction between China and Soviet Russia as regards the Chinese Eastern Railway.

It appears that the Chinese resolved to impose a land tax in the railway area instead of a railway tax, which entitled business concerns to have their goods shunted on to the railway without charge, but when the Chinese land tax was imposed, the railway authorities decided to charge $5 per truck for shunting. This started a controversy which has since extended to other matters, in which Marshal Chang Tso-lin is mainly concerned.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ACCIDENT TO KOREA MARU AT YOKOHAMA

Damaged through Crashing into Quay Wall: Indefinite Postponement of Sailing

Tokyo, Feb. 4.

The Korea Maru, while docking at Yokohama yesterday afternoon, crashed against the wall of a quay, tearing off 12 feet of her bow-plates and also damaging the wall.

The vessel's departure for America therefore has been postponed indefinitely. Four hundred and ninety-seven passengers thus have been held up, including Mr. Matsudaira, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States. It is believed that the Taiyo Maru, which is at present at Kobe, will be substituted for the Korea Maru.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TOKYO papers report that two of the crew of the Gleniffer, about to return to their ship after a visit ashore, were accosted by four Filipinos of the Gaelic Prince, with "Hullo, Yankees." The Gleniffers, believing that the Filipinos had said, "Hullo Monkeys," gave battle, and, being two against four, were badly mauled. All were taken in charge by the Water Police.

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A DAWES PLAN FOR CHINA?

Mr. Bertrand Russell Tells the British Workers All About It

FROM OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester, Dec. 25.

Communist and anti-Imperialist propagandists have lately been making a concerted effort to interest the British workers in China. In every speech dealing with the Labour situation or foreign policy they devote some time to an exposition of British and American aggression in China or to a harrowing exposure of labour conditions in her cotton mills. The persistent attention given to the subject by the more prominent Communist propagandists indicates that they are acting under orders in calling attention to it, for it is not particularly popular with their audiences, who are more concerned with capitalist "oppression" at home. The subject is also particularly "featured" in extreme Labour and Communist periodicals.

An 'Orrible Picture

One form of the propaganda is an alarmist attempt to excite interest in a supposed imminent military naval attack on China having for its utlimate objective the joint exploitation of the country and its huge reservoir of potential labour in the interests of Anglo-American capital. The other is a revelation of the manner in which the British mill-owner, foiled by the strength of the trade unions in his frontal attack on hours and wages in Great Britain, designs to depress our standard of living by more subtle means. The huge profits won in the war, are, we are told, being used for the erection of innumerable cotton mills in China. Here, untroubled by Factory Acts and trade unions, the capitalists are producing cotton goods under the most harrowing labour condition. Such huge profits are being made that British millowners will be able to close down the home factories until the pampered operatives come to their senses and consent to work the pre-war number of hours for the nominal pre-war wage. By this means the whole cost of the war will be met by the workers and it will also yield a substantial profit to the capitalist classes; and to complete Labour's discomfiture the bogy of Asiatic labour will always be handy to menace them with if they should dare to get obstreperous.

The despatch of warships sent by Great Britain and America to protect foreign interests in Shanghai a few months ago is now described by Labour speakers and periodicals as an attack on China. This attack, it is said, failed, but another one is in preparation. To foil it we are advised that the strongest support of the Russian Government is necessary, for it is their policy to preserve the integrity of the Chinese Republic and to prevent the exploitation of its workers by Machiavellian Anglo-American capitalists.

Enter Mr. Russell

The propaganda has been so obviously artificial and has with the exception of the stories of Labour conditions in the Chinese mills, excited so little interest, that we have not thought it worth while to pay much attention to it. We know one or two Communists with a fairly intimate knowledge of conditions in China achieved by long residence there, but the more prominent Communist spokesmen have never studied China's particular problems or visited the country. But the appearance of Mr. Bertrand Russell as an alarmist on the subject is a more important matter. He has sufficent prestige and ability to ensure attention to anything he may write, and his article entitled "A Dawes Plan for China?" in the "New Leader" for December 26 has attracted wide attention.

He opens with an attack on the Government's decision to resume the construction of the naval base at Singapore, alleging that it is part of an anti-Japanese policy adopted since the Washington Conference to please America and the British Dominions. The result he says will be the formation of a Russo-Asiatic block involving the loss of all that we hold in Asia. Referring to a newspaper report that a group of business men are going to hold an international conference in China for the purpose of arranging a "Dawes" plan for that country Mr. Bertrand Russell states that while he does not approve of American policy in China he far more disapproves of British policy, which is in every way, "more reactionary, brutal, and unenlightened." The slashing comment is all the more sinister in that Mr. Russell never explains what the difference between English and American policy is.

Japan of Course

While alleging that the leading power in China during the war and down to the Washington Conference of 1921 was Japan, Mr. Bertrand Russell alleges that the root of that power was not financial but military, and says that it was screened from attack by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. This Alliance, he continues, was disliked by the Dominions and by the British residents in the Far East, and was regarded by the Americans as being anti-American. Its real motive, he says, was to prevent Pan-asiatic Japanese propaganda in India and to secure Japanese co-operation in suppressing any possible mutiny there. In spite of the opposition of the Dominions it was the intention of the British Foreign Office to renew that alliance right down to the summer of 1921 but by autumn of that year it was more intent on conciliating America and changed its mind.

No Standing

In developing his case Mr. Russell makes considerable use of Millard's recent book, "Conflict of Policies in Asia." What Mr. Millard's standing is in the Far East, we don't know, but some of his assertions seem to us about on a par with the "Daily Mail" accounts of happenings in Moscow, for he is reported to have written that if we had not paid interest on our debt to America she would have seized Canada as security, and that America would have found it easier to fight Japan and England together than to fight Japan only.

After a close consideration of several more of the alarming ideas of Mr. Millard and his solution of China's difficulties—he has suggested that America should take over China's debts to Europe in part payment of Europe's debts to America and that America shall then declare a moratorium for a few years and devote the resulting revenue to strengthening the central government in Peking in exchange for special opportunities to exploit the resources of China—Mr. Russell goes on to point out that this is the policy that has been successfully followed in Latin America.

These Wicked Foreigners

If it is applied to China the government will still be left in native hands but the real power will be in the hands of the great New York bankers. Americans" he says, "will believe quite sincerely, that they are conferring a benefit by introducing stable government. In fact, however, this would mean in China an immense industrial development of which the profits would go to foreigners. It would mean 12 to 14 hours work a day; wages of about as much in a month as aBritish working man gets in a day: Child labour in mills and mines; all the horrors from which English industry suffered a hundred years ago with the aggravation that the profits would go abroad."

Mr. Russell concludes by asserting that Japan has escaped this fate at our hands by her military strength, China (hitherto) by internal disorder. He hopes for the complete failure of any Anglo-American attempt to establish "good Government" in China in order to secure a profitable field for investment. "The present anarchy" in China," he says "does not cause a hundreth part of the misery that would be caused if China were successfully subjected to a 'Dawes Plan.' International capitalism is cleverer and better informed than international socialism. So long as this remains the case Socialists will continue to be bamboozled."

Socialist Conceit

Readers in Shanghai will be better able to estimate the value of Mr. Bertrand Russell's theories and warnings than residents in England but however valuable they may be his method of expounding them will negative their effect among Socialists here. The members of the Independent Labour Party, to whose weekly organ the article was contributed, are more dogmatically certain that they know all there is to be known about oppressors and oppressed in the Far East than any life-long resident in the lands they talk so much about, and Mr. Russell's comment on their ignorance will turn the scale against all his logic. And there are still a handful of MacDonaldites who believe that, as the master hand was responsible for putting the Dawes Scheme in operation, it is a Socialist measure of unquestionable virtue.

In a footnote to Russell's article, the editor of the "New Leader" claims that subsequent events are proving the truth of his arguments. He says that Japan and Russia are now informally co-operating in China against Britain and America and that the "Times" is urging that it is the Powers' duty to intervene by obtaining control of China's railways.

20 PER CENT. TAX ON TOBACCO IN PEKING

To Be Imposed Throughout the Metropolitan Area

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Peking, Feb. 5.

Posters on hoardings in Peking announce that a 20 per cent. consumption tax on cigarettes and cigars will be imposed throughout the Metropolitan area as from February 11. I understand that both the British and American legations have already taken the matter up with the Government.

ROTOR TYPE VESSELS FOR FAR EAST

To be Run by Hamburg-Amerika Line: Economy Anticipated

Washington, Feb. 4.

The Department of Commerce learns that the Hamburg-Amerika Line has ordered 10 cargo boats of the Flettner rotor type for the Hamburg-Rio de Janeiro and the Hamburg-East Asia routes, where it is calculated the trade winds and monsoon conditions will enable savings to be effected of 40 and 60 per cent. of fuel on the respective routes.—Reuter's American Service.

CHINESE NAVAL APPOINTMENTS

Peking, Feb. 5.

At a Cabinet meeting to-day it was resolved as follows:—Admiral Yang Shou-chuang will succeed Admiral Tu Hsih-kuei as Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, Admiral Li Ching-hsi succeeding Admiral Yang Shou-chuang as commander of the training squadron. Rear-Admiral Hsu Chien-ting will replace Admiral Li Ching-hsi as commander of the Second Squadron, while Admiral Chen Chi-liang will take command of the First Squadron from Admiral Chow Chou-kuai, who is to be relieved of his post.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BIG FIRE AT HANKOW

Hankow, Feb. 2.

A fire broke out this morning in the godowns of the Yee Loong Trading Company, wood-oil refiners, and caused damage of approximately Tls. 200,000. The damage is fully covered by insurance.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ACCORDING to reliable reports from Chinese banking sources now available after the New Year native banks in Hankow, by reason of the bankruptcies of business firms and other outcomes of the continuous civil wars, have borne losses during the year amounting to almost $3,000,000. In consequence, says the "Central China Post." it is foreseen that many local native banks will either have to be reorganized or cease business in the present year.

CHINESE STUDENTS ABROAD

Is Foreign Education Really to Their Good? Some Points on Which It Breaks Down

Peking, Jan. 25.

A question which has been given some prominence of late, "Whether Chinese students should or should not be educated" (? abroad) was considered at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Peking on Thursday last, when Dr. Wilson Leon Godshall, lecturer on Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered a reasoned and well balanced address. His arguments may be summarized under the heads of advantages and disadvantages. Under the former come: 1.—Familiarity with foreign languages. 2.—Familiarity with foreign customs and manners. 3.—Close contact with democratic forms of government. 4.—Close contact with modern educational systems. 5.—Commercial and industrial contacts, with the advantages of seeing things done on a large and efficient scale. 6.—Securing from abroad a long distance view of China. 7.—Opportunity to correct misunderstanding and misconceptions of China in the minds of foreign peoples. 8.—Close observance of important sociological matters, sanitation, etc., and 9.—Attendance at first-class colleges and universities.

Some Disadvantages

Under disadvantages are: 1.—The tendency to be spoiled by misunderstanding the unusual interest taken by residents of foreign countries in students from other countries. 2.—The tendency to form hasty opinions from superficial observance and information. 3.—The tendency for students in foreign countries to stick together instead of associating with the people of those countries and thus becoming detrimentally clannish. 4.—Natural hesitation to engage in athletics or exercises, thus limiting mental effort and leading, perhaps, to breakdowns. 5.—The tendency to absorb too freely theories from textbooks and bring them back to China for application. 6.—Absence of home restraint, which tends to lead to evils through bad company, etc. 7.—Payment of too liberal allowances of money to students. 8.—Loss of touch with things in China, which causes some to come back to the homeland like foreigners where they have to start all over again to know their country.

Send Only the Best

In conclusion the speaker said that it resolved itself into the problem of what students should be selected to go abroad, whetner graduates or undergraduates. It was unwise to send immature students abroad. There was no necessity for that, since there were good colleges in China. Qualified students should be sent to big colleges or universities to take up special kinds of work. This would prevent them becoming denaturalized or denationalized. At least students should be matriculated in junior or senior in some American college if they insisted on going before they had graduated in China.

Summed up, only graduates of Chinese colleges should be sent abroad, and they should specialize in professional or technical fields, and not in liberal fields, but, if any were sent who had not graduated, then they should be carefully selected with the understanding that they should matriculate in small colleges.

The speaker emphasized his various points to such effect that Admiral Tsai Ting-kan, the chairman, advised that the address should be printed and circulated throughout China, as being an important contribution to the question of foreign education. Admiral Tsai recounted some of his own experiences as a student abroad and when he returned to China, and expressed approval of the conclusions reached by Dr. Godshall.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA

Peking, Jan. 30.

The *"Ching Pao"* asserts that the Government have sounded Moscow regarding the appointment of Dr. C. T. Wang as the first Chinese Ambassador to Soviet Russia.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TRUE INTENTIONS OF JAPAN

Unfounded Suspicions Removed by Washington Conference; Hopes for China

Tokyo, Feb. 5.

Availing himself of the third anniversary of the signing of the "very important" Treaties of Washington, Baron Shidehara, the Foreign Minister, who was at that time Japanese Ambassador to the United States and the chief Japanese delegate to the Washington Conference, has issued an official communication, lauding the results of those meetings, which "have proved highly beneficial to all parties alike," ending the menacing competition in capital ships and at the same time "finally removing all unfounded suspicions which were at one time current regarding the acts and intentions of Japan in China and elsewhere."

Baron Shidehara pleads for a continuance of the spirit of "reason, courage, tolerance and, I may add, sympathy," which gave the Arms Conference "a high abiding place in the annals of mankind."

He expresses the hope that the procedure of the Nine-Power Treaties relative to China will quickly be completed and the Treaties ratified.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE London Fire Brigade has just ordered a new fire float which will be built by Merryweathers of Greenwich, the famous fire engineers. The new vessel, which will be 70 feet in length, will be fitted with internal combustion engines of 220 B. H. P., and turbine pumps having a combined capacity of 2,000 gallons per minute at high pressure.

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SHANGHAI NEWS

RECEPTION TO GENS. WU AND CHANG

Chinese Merchants At Home at Union Club: Peking's Reluctance to Fight: Prospect of Business Men being Asked for Repatriation Loan

A reception was held at the Union club on Monday in honour of Gen. Wu Kuang-hsin (brother-in-law to Marshal Tuan Chi-jui), Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief of the Third Fengtien Army, and Gen. Chang Chung-chang, Commander-in-Chief of the Third Fengtien Army, now stationed in Shanghai. The China Merchants' S. N. Co., the Han Yeh Ping Iron & Coal Co., the Shanghai Steamship Association, and the Fang Loh Coal Mining Co. organized it.

There were present Marquis Li Wei-hou (who acted as toast-master), Gen. Ho Feng-lin (former Military Governor of Shanghai and Sungkiang), Mr. Wang Ken-ting (Taoyin of Shanghai), Mr. Shen Zah-zen, Gen. Li Ching-wu, Messrs. Fang Shao-pah (vice-chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce), Y. S. Ziar, N. Y. Chang, Shen Lien-fong, L. T. Yuan, Wang I-ding, Chun Bing-him, Pan Ching-poo, Lo King-kee and Zia Hung-chong.

Shipping Suffers

Having welcomed the two guests, Marquis Li said that all were looking forward now to permanent peace in this part of the country. The China Merchants' S. N. Co. and the Han Peh-Ping Co., said the chairman, were China's premier companies, and they had suffered immeasurably during the recent wars. Boats and products had been commandeered by the military because they were under the Chinese flag. If they had been under a foreign flag, they would not have been seized. Anyhow, he hoped that the future would bring about better conditions and that they would all receive as much protection under the Chinese flag as they would under any other. Gen. Wu had come here as a representative of the Central Government and the speaker would ask him to convey this message to the Peking Government. Toasts were then offered for the Chinese Republic, the Chinese Central Government and the two generals who were their guests.

Peking's Peaceful Intent

Gen. Wu, who spoke for well over an hour, spoke at length on the causes of the recent war and said that the Central Government had ordered Marshal Lu and Gen. Chang to come here with peaceful intentions, but they were forced to resort to arms because Chi Hsieh-yuan was first to attack them. The fight was unavoidable, said the Minister of War, who went on to outline in detail the progress of the fighting in Kiangsu. The war had a great bearing on the national situation as a whole and the Government and the Fengtien military leaders had no desire for further warfare. When everything was at peace and the deserting and defeated troops sent back to their homes and after the rehabilitation of Shanghai, the Fengtien troops would be withdrawn. They had not come here for the purpose of unifying the country by force like Tsao Kun and Wu Pei-fu, and as a sign that the Central Government sincerely desired real peace, the speaker said, a section of Gen. Chang's troops would be withdrawn in a day or two, probably to Nanking. He hoped that the order of the Central Government, which was sincere, to transform the Arsenal into an industrial factory would soon bear fruit and that it would be handed over to the Chamber of Commerce for care. He hoped that China's industry would prosper as a result and that Shanghai, when transformed into a special municipal area, would become even a more important commercial and industrial centre that it was already.

A Loan from the Merchants?

There was general agreement on all these points between Marshals Tuan and Lu and Gen. Chang and himself. They were all glad that there was no need to use further military force and were not sorry to learn that Chi Hsieh-yuan had left China and would be able to cause no further trouble. Some of the Chêkiang troops were still stationed at Lunghua and its environs, and, as it was not desirable to cause further fighting, Gen. Chang was withdrawing his men from that vicinity. Gen. Chang would, the speaker hoped, be able to carry out his duties efficiently now with the support of all the merchants. He hoped that the latter would help him by raising funds for the repatriation of Chi's mercenary forces: the Government would guarantee its return.

Gen. Chang said that he had come here at the orders of the Central Government to gather up and repatriate Chi's forces and to rehabilitate Shanghai. When he had finished this work he would return to the north. To carry out the work it was necessary for them to bring some troops, but he denied that these were brought here for the purpose of war. Chi had broken his own word by attempting to put up a stand after he had resigned and used Shanghai as a base of his operations and schemes. Anyhow, he had gone away so that all could now hope for peace. Gen. Chang said that the derelict Chi troops were still a menace, but he hoped that his work might be hurried. The peace of Shanghai was essential to the peace of Kiangsu and China as a whole. He would himself do his best to maintain peace and order locally and to work for the welfare of the people. As to the Arsenal he would endeavour to carry out the Government's order.

PEACE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

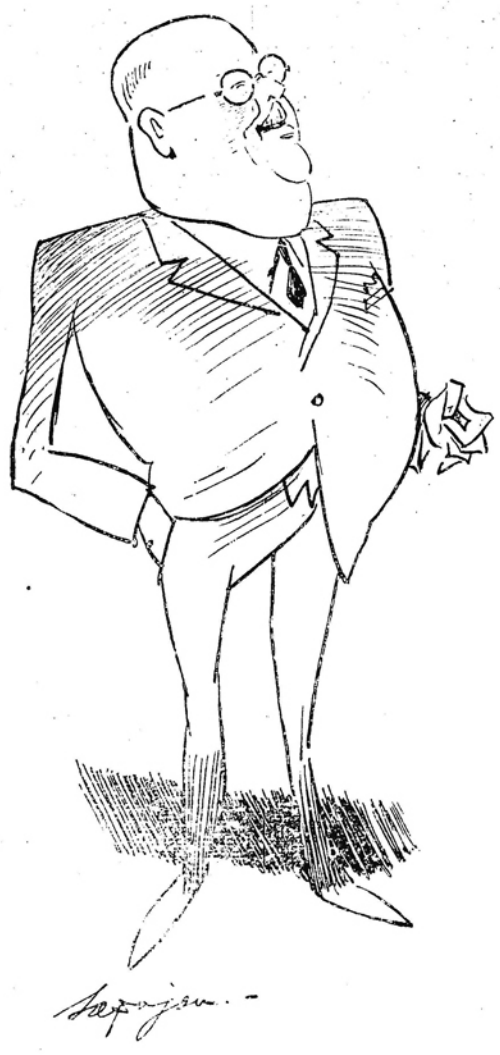
Shanghai Schoolboy a Winner this Year

One of the proudest schoolboys in Shanghai to-day is Master H. M. Noblston, of the Public School for Boys, who is the third in the history of Shanghai schools to gain the coveted Peace Memorial Scholarship in connexion with Hongkong University Matriculation Examination. The scholarship, presented by an anonymous donor, is tenable for three years at any recognized University in the world and of the value of £1,400. Candidates are required to follow a course chosen from Electrical Engineering and/or Synthetic Chemistry; Agriculture and/or Practical Farming.

Noblston, a bright youth who scarcely looks his 17 summers, has the engaging manner of the ordinary schoolboy who conscientiously studies those subjects which appeal to him and as conscientiously neglects those which do not, yet his 12 years at the Public School certainly belie this. He has the distinction of having passed the Hongkong examination on two previous occasions with honours, in 1922 and 1923—just to keep his hand in as he expresses it. On the last occasion when he won the scholarship he gained three distinctions. The Cambridge Junior local was his first success and this, too, he passed with honours.

Master Noblston intends to enter London University to study electrical engineering which will necessitate his sitting for a further examination.

On Monday morning a rag-picker, who had been plying his trade in the vicinity of Shanse Road, picked up a parcel containing 482 rounds of pistol ammunition in an adjacent alleyway. He informed the police, and though further search was made by them, nothing else was disclosed, but the theory is maintained that either an agent or principal became frightened by his proximity to a search party of constables, and cast aside his contraband, hoping to retrieve it at a later date.



MR. ROY ANDERSON EXHALES

CHINA SOCIETY OF SCIENCE & ARTS

Spring Art Exhibition to Be Held in April

The President of the China Society of Science and Arts wishes to make the announcement that the annual spring art exhibition of the society will be held about the middle of April this year. The exhibition is to be of paintings, drawings, and sculpture carried out in the Western style by artists of any nationality living in or visiting China. All artists are invited to send in their work for exhibition. The place where the exhibition is to be held and the exact date will be announced later when they have been decided upon. Meanwhile it is suggested that artists should make an effort to get as much work as possible ready for the exhibition, as it is desired to make it as great a success as the one held last year.

A fee of $1 Mex. will be charged to exhibiting artists, while 10 per cent. of the price realized on all sales of pictures, which must be negotiated through the officers of the exhibition, will go to the Society for the purpose of paying expenses.

All pictures should be framed, and should have the title, name of exhibitor and price written clearly upon detachable labels, which will be supplied from the office of the "China Journal of Science & Arts," 102 Ben Building, 25 Avenue Edward VII, Shanghai, on application.

There will be a special hanging committee composed of representative artists in Shanghai, and its decisions in regard to pictures must be accepted as final.

It is hoped that the exhibition will continue for a period of at least one week.

Any communications or inquiries regarding the exhibition should be addressed to the Secretary, Art Exhibition 102 The Ben Building, 25 Avenue Edward VII, Shanghai.

A MINIATURE SIDNEY STREET AFFAIR

French Police Surround Armed Robber: Detective Wounded

A pitched battle between an armed robber and most of the detectives of the French Police, in which upwards of 30 shots were exchanged, alarmed the residents along Rue du Consulat last Friday evening between 9.30 and 10.30 o'clock. Baffling all attempts of the police to take him into custody the robber held the house which he was robbing for the better portion of the hour, undeterred by official means directed at roofs and walls to effect an entrance. At last, after having expended his ammunition, he having fired 13 times—by count of shells found inside—he signified his intention to surrender. He stated that he alone was resisting arrest, but the story of the householder and police theory, built upon the active defence, leads officers to believe that there were two, one of whom escaped.

Shortly after 9 p.m. the police received a call of robbers from Passage 22, Rue du Consulat. Capt. of Detectives Silaine called on every available man and led the assault on the house in person. The call to surrender was replied to with a shot, but a cordon thrown round the house prevented any egress by those within. In the meantime the police tried to get in through the roof, failing in which tools were procured and a hole begun in the wall. Further shots were fired and a Chinese detective fell, though fortunately, not seriously wounded.

After the robber had surrendered, the French authorities spoke very highly of the assistance which Chinese may render if they notify the police quickly.

PILE DRIVING IN A NEW PHASE

Work Started on the Customs House Site with Seven-ton Piles Fifty Feet Long

A FOUNDATION ON A GRAND SCALE

The driving of the first pile on the site of the new Customs House on Monday began a piece of foundation construction work unique in the Far East and far exceeding anything hitherto essayed in Shanghai. It was the start of work involving the driving of over 1,500 piles, each 50 feet long and seven tons in weight, made to bear first a concrete raft and then steelwork over 4,000 tons in weight and about twice that amount of granite. Furthermore it is a system of piling new to Shanghai, for instead of the piles being of wood, specially steel-reinforced concrete is being used. This foundation work alone will probably require about a year, but is demanded by the weight of the new Customs tower.

The commencement of the pile driving was the occasion of no small interest to the public. The setting in position of these large piles is no easy matter but once in position the first pile was driven fully into the ground in a matter of 20 minutes.

The type of pile which is employed is one which, though not hitherto used in Shanghai, has been adopted for the foundation of the Menin gate memorial at Ypres. The design for those to be used in Shanghai was made by Messrs. Logan, Reynolds and Faber, London, and, as stated above, they are 50 ft. in length, corrugated, and weighing seven tons. At the top they are 16 inches square, and this dimension continues until the very foot, which is "sharpened" and fitted with a special cast iron shoe or driving point. Over the greater part of the building they are placed with a 4 ft. to 6 ft. centre, but in front, where the tower has to be supported, they are closer.

The casting of the piles in large wooden moulds has already been partly accomplished and has been done on the portion of the site where the operations have not yet been started, under the direction of the architects Messrs. Palmer & Turner and the Chinese contractor Mr. Sing King-kee. The process of pile driving is likely to be a lengthy one in a building of this size and necessitates the driving of some 1,542 in number. Four large pile driving shafts have now been made ready for action, and the work of driving is likely to continue for the next six months. The nature of the soil in Shanghai makes this preliminary operation a very necessary one and with the front portion of the building this is especially so as it is estimated that the facade of this enormous edifice alone will consist of over 8,000 tons of granite. The steel work alone will weigh 4,300 tons. No difficulty was yesterday experienced in driving in the piles, the three-and-a-half ton "monkey" used being very efficient. As the number of piles increases, however, progress is not likely to be so rapid, the close packing of the soil towards the centre making driving a very much more difficult task.

When the piling is completed, a reinforced concrete raft will be constructed on top of it. This may best be described as looking like an inverted table, and from the top of the piles to the bottom of the ground floor it will be about nine feet in height. With the construction of this and the piling, it is probable that the foundation will not be completed until about the end of the present year, allowance being made for the possibility of bad weather.

It is interesting to note that on this occasion the usual joss ceremonies have not been omitted and previous to the driving of the first pile an altar bearing food offerings in the shape of a skinned pig, a goat, a fish and numerous plates of berries and other food, a large block of wood and some copper cash, not to mention a row of cups containing samshu, was erected to bring success to the enterprise. A number of red candles were also lighted, adding a picturesque touch to the scene.

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MUST SHANGHAI RANK AS A THIRD-CLASS PORT?

Plain Warning at Hongkong Medical Conference Regarding Her Backwardness in Sanitary and Quarantine Measures:

The League of Nations Scheme of Port Grading

Shanghai as a third-class port under the League of Nations grading was the theme of a striking address delivered before the medical conference in Hongkong, by Dr. C. E. Lim, M B., D. P. H., Chinese Secretary of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine. The gathering in Hongkong is a joint confernce of the Hongkong and China branch of the British Medical Association and of the China Medical Missionary Association, and the particular aspect of affairs referred to by Dr. Lim was considered by the Section on Public Health. Dr. Addison, Principal Civil Medical Officer of Hongkong, presided at the Section meeting, and Dr. Lim's paper was in the following terms:—

Grading of Far Eastern Ports

In these days of rapid transportation and means of communication the control of infectious diseases, instead of being a matter of purely local significance, has become a subject of international concern. Improved means of communication has resulted in bringing cities and nations into closer communication, but this has not been without its attendant evils as it has introduced diseases into territories in which they were formerly non-existent.

One of the primitive instincts of mankind is to protect itself against obvious sources of infection from without. In course of time with the march of progress and civilization, the adoption of means to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases became more general. The methods varied according to the prevailing knowledge as to how diseases were spread, but it was not until the middle of the 19th century, following the discoveries of Pasteur, Koch and others that methods of disease prevention were initiated on a scientific basis.

The successful fight of the Western world against various infectious diseases such as smallpox, plague and cholera shows what can be done in the Far East against similar diseases. But the magnitude of the problem has hitherto been generally underestimated, as the fight against disease will have to be waged on a world-wide basis if there is to be any degree of success.

The Story of Quarantine

One of the first barriers against the introduction of disease is by quarantine, which implies certain restraints on free intercourse on land and sea. We shall consider for our purpose only maritime quarantine whose development it would be interesting to trace here briefly. The first attempt to enforce maritime quarantine was in 1448 in Venice, when the Venetian authorities formulated a code of quarantine regulations against the introduction of plague into the city. In England the first quarantine act was not passed until 1710. Since then each country has adopted different quarantine regulations for itself. As the question soon attained international significance, several conventions had to be held. The last notable one was the International Sanitary Convention of Paris in 1912, but owing to the World War, the ratification of the Convention has been effected by only a few of the Powers. In any event the regulations approved then are now considered antiquated, in view of the remarkable modern advances that have been made in sanitary and medical science. It does not take a sufficient account of some of the more important causes now known in the spread of disease. Its provisions do not extend to diseases, such as typhus and smallpox, which signally require some measure of international agreement to prevent their dissemination by means of shipping. The office of the Office International d'Hygiene Publique is charged with the revision of the Convention. The importance of expediting the revision of this Convention has also been emphasized by the Health Committee of the League of Nations, which has at the same time indicated the desirability of supplementing the provisions of the general Convention by special agreement between countries in order to avoid unnecessary hampering of commerce.

The Paris Convention even in its revised text is aimed primarily at the protection of Western countries from infection from the East. No provision is given to safeguard the health of ports in the Far East where the centres of infection are much nearer and the danger of transmission of infection constantly present. Classification is made of the sanitary conditions of ships instead of the health conditions of the ports from which they come. In the East where the centres of quarantinable diseases are so near it is an unsound procedure not to take cognizance of the health condition at the port of departure. Each country in the Far East also devises its own set of quarantine laws, some unduly severe and others altogether negligible.

Public health activity in the Far East can be exercised only within a limited range and in view of that it is highly desirable to formulate a minimum standard in order that the relatively little which can be done may be directed towards promoting the most effective measures.

The need for a Sanitary Convention dealing with health problems in the Far East was felt most keenly by those who have anything to do with sanitation in the East. The Government of the Dutch East Indies was the first to propose an Austral-Asiatic Quarantine Conference to be held in Batavia in 1922 for the formulation of maritime quarantine regulations applicable to ports in the East, but in view of the revision of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris at that time in progress the Conference was postponed. The interest of the Health Committee of the League of Nations was then drawn to Far Eastern health problems by Dr. Miyajima who succeeded in getting the League to despatch a commission to the Far East to collect information regarding the incidence of epidemic diseases, especially those of international importance in Oriental ports and the measures taken to prevent the transmission of these diseases to other ports The mission to the Far East was conducted by Dr. F. Norman White C. I. E. (formerly a medical officer the British Ministry of Health). The survey covered all countries of the Far East including most of the ports.

The League's Recommendations

As a result of the survey a valuable and comprehensive report entitled "The Prevalence of Epidemic Disease and Port Health Organization and Procedure in the Far East" was presented to the Health Committee of the League of Nations by Dr. White. Among the recommendations suggested are the establishment of an Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau in Singapore for the collection and dissemination of information regarding the health conditions at the principal seaports and the calling of a Sanitary Convention for the countries of the Far East. The proposals presented are detailed and comprehensive and are deserving of the careful consideration by the medical, commercial and shipping interests in order that simple and practical rules may be adopted for the prevention of infection without prejudicing the interests of shipping and commerce.

The report submitted by Dr. Norman White, was investigated by a special sub-committee appointed by the League of Nations. The sub-comittee concerned itself principally with the two recommendations of Dr. White. As a result of their findings the Health Committee approved the following resolutions which on account of their significance are reproduced below:—

Health Committee's Findings

A. Establishment of Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau for the Far East:—

I.—"The Health Committee recommends the creation, in a Far Eastern port to be chosen by agreement between the Governments concerned, of a Bureau which would represent, for that portion of the globe, an extension of the Epidemiological Intelligence Service of the Health Section of the League of Nations.

"The Committee recommends that the Governments interested in the Far East shall be asked by means of an official letter from the Secretary-General to express their views on the proposal to establish a Bureau of Epidemiological Intelligence in the Far East, as well as on the place at which this Bureau should be established."

II.—The functions of this Bureau, as at present contemplated, may be stated as follows:—

(a) to collect and transmit at regular intervals, from all Far Eastern countries, information regarding the incidence and spread of infectious diseases;

(b) to collect and transmit periodical returns of vital statistics in Far Eastern ports;

(c) to collect data regarding alterations, additions or amendments to sanitary laws and regulations;

(d) to publish at regular intervals returns, data tables and general vital statistics regarding Far Eastern countries;

(e) to transmit all the abovementioned information periodically to the ports and health administrations of all the Far Eastern countries concerned, and to the Health Section of the League of Nations;

(f) to render all possible assistance to the Governments concerned in matters which fall within its competence.

B. Sanitary Convention for Grading of Far Eastern Ports.

III.—"The Committee decides to recommend that the report of Dr. Norman White on his mission to the Far East should be forwarded through the Secretary-General to all the Governments of the countries of the Far East, with a request that they should formulate their observations on the draft Sanitary Convention contained in this report.

"The Committee instructs a Sub-Committee to examine the observations received and to prepare a general report on these for submision to the Committee at one of its later sessions. The Committee will forward the report subsequently to the Advisory Council for examination.

Grading of Ports

The bases put forward for the grading of ports of the Far East are as follows:—

A first-class port shall possess:

1. Presence of qualified and adequate health staff.
2. Adequate apparatus for fumigation of large vessels at anchor.
3. Trained staff for capture and scrutiny of rats.
4. Suitable quarantine station for deck passengers.
5. Adequately equipped laboratory.
6. Infectious Diseases Hospital.
7. A safe and adequate water supply.
8. Machinery for dealing with vital diseases, including dangerous communicable diseases.

A second-class port has all qualifications except 2 and 4.

A third-class port is one not included among the above.

There is some indication that the countries representing the Far East will favour the establishment of the Epidemiological Intelligence Bureau in Singapore and preliminary steps are now being taken with that end in view. The inauguration of such a bureau will have to precede the Convention which cannot function in the absence of the Bureau.

China Ports Affected

Our excuse for presenting this paper is to draw attention to the significance and effects which the recommendations of the League might have on our China ports when the grading of Far Eastern ports was finally accepted. The reason why this important subject has gained no publicity even in the Treaty Ports of this country is due probably to the despatches of the League of Nations having been pigeon-holed somewhere in one of the Ministries in Peking owing to the disorganization in the Central Government created by repeated political upheavals and disturbances.

In reviewing our port sanitary conditions from the points of view of meeting the minimum requirements called for by the League and the prevention of the introduction of disease into the country, it will at once be realized that in most of the ports of this country there is hardly any health organization capable of coping with the situation. Our port sanitary administration has, since the introduction of quarantine laws in China, been conducted by the Chinese Maritime Customs in the interests, not of improving the sanitary conditions of the ports, but of facilitating the free movements of shipping. For the sake of false economy or otherwise, most of the health officers appointed to treaty ports have been busy local practitioners who, on account of their various callings, cannot reasonably be expected to give their full attention to port sanitation. As a result of this our Quarantine Service has, on the whole, been very backward and the available information as to its activities is extremely scanty. In view of that it is hardly necessary to state that under existing conditions most of our ports will be much below the minimum standard required by the proposed convention.

Let us consider for the present only Hongkong and Shanghai, two of our biggest ports, to see whether either of them can be ranked as a first class port in the grading of the League. Hongkong, being a British Colony and under one administration can, without very much difficulty, introduce the necessary improvements to make it a first-class port. It is, therefore, unnecessary to go into any details here. In the case of Shanghai it is a different proposition. It presents a problem more difficult of solution on account of its various political and administrative units.

Shanghai as a Third-Class Port

In order to appreciate the complex nature of the quarantine problem in Shanghai, it is necessary to recall the fact, often overlooked even by those living within the Settlements, that the city is made up of three distinct and independent administrative units, namely; the International Settlement, the French Settlement, and the Chinese City. Each of these units play an equally significant part as far as the health of the port is concerned.

The International Settlement has an efficient Public Health Department conducted along the best British lines with a laboratory staff of well-trained men. In the French Settlement there is a sanitary service run in accordance with French practices; while in the Chinese city there is hardly any organized attempt at health administration. The port health authority is vested in the Commissioner of Customs who is assisted by a Port Health Officer stationed at Woosung. The latter in turn is entirely dependent upon the health organizations of the city for his information as to the prevalence of infectious diseases.

Public Indifference

It is obvious that, with the health activities of the place so divided, it permits of a wide range of difference in the measures taken for the protection of health and the control of epidemics. As a result an indifferent attitude is taken towards health matters by the people as a whole. Thus we find that even among the foreigners there is this tendency. The Commissioner of Public Health in his report for Shanghai says: "It is estimated that during 1922 not more than 50 per cent. of the cases of notifiable diseases among foreigners were notified by medical practitioners." Owing to the imperfect notification of infectious diseases the actual state of health of the city can, therefore, only be guessed. In spite of the admirable efforts being made by the Municipal Health Council to protect the health of the people and keep out epidemics from the Settlement, it must be emphasized here that it would be a false sense of security to entertain the idea that the Settlement is protected against invasion by any epidemic which may manifest itself in the adjoining city. Experience shows that land quarantine is a failure, and even if it is possible to place a sanitary cordon of police and soldiers on the border, in time of an epidemic, it cannot succeed in keeping the disease out. Besides, the International Settlement is dependent largely on the adjoining territory for its food supplies and cannot be absolutely isolated.

Let us take for our consideration the prevalence in Shanghai of plague, cholera and smallpox, the three most important diseases from the point of view of international quarantine. We find that cholera and smallpox claim a few hundred deaths each year in the settlement. Plague has been absent for a number of years, but during the past year a few cases have been reported; this shows the necessity of pursuing constantly anti-plague measures. The control of smallpox has been gaining ground through vaccination to which the Chinese are not averse. In view of the interrelation of the health of the Settlement with that of the surrounding districts it seems such a pity to allow the good work done to be jeopardized by unfavourable health conditions prevailing, say, in the Chinese city.

Ignoring Facts

Hitherto the practice is to take the vital statistics published weekly by the Municipal Health Council as an index of the health of the port, and no attention is paid to the prevalence of infectious diseases in the other component parts of the city. This is a convenient way of ignoring actual facts in order to facilitate quarantine procedure by having the port taken to be in a healthier condition than it really is. With the proposed grading of Far Eastern ports this state of affairs will not likely be so readily glossed over, in which case Shanghai would be rated as a third-class port. This would be most detrimental to the interests of the port in that stricter quarantine inspection would be adopted against steamers from Shanghai at other ports of call. Quarantine, of course, means delays and consequent monetary loss to shipping and trade.

International Sanitary Survey

It is imperative, therefore, to have Shanghai, the fourth biggest port in the world, classified as a first-class port. It seems desirable that serious attention be given to the best means of securing co-operation of all parties concerned for mutual protection and public health. One of the greatest drawbacks in this respect is the paucity of information on the actual health conditions of all those areas within the geographical limit of the city, and this lack of authentic information can only be supplied by a comprehensive international survey.

In England sanitary surveys were made about the middle of the 19th century, and the reports published laid the foundation for the great sanitary awakening which soon followed. It is expected that the sanitary survey suggested for Shanghai will result in a unified action being taken for improving its health condition. Long residence in China has made most foreigners sceptical of everything but in this case when the vital interests of all parties are involved there is no justification for taking a *laissez-faire* attitude.

Difficulties Not Insurmountable

The difficulties to be encountered in inaugurating the survey will doubtless be great, but not insurmountable. Many of the Chinese authorities have no acquaintance with public health administration whatsoever, and unless the Chinese city can be made to co-operate, the result will be fruitless. There are however, organizations such as the Chinese Chambers of Commerce which will appreciate the necessity of action in this matter and there is every reason to believe that they can be so interested in the welfare of the port as to take the initiative in calling for a survey if rightly approached. The great prosperity of the commercial life of the city can be traced largely to successful co-operation with the Chinese and if the health authorities of the Settlements will only enlist the services and support of the Chinese, the problem of health promotion will be rendered much simpler.

The object of the sanitary survey will be to collect information, to advise the people as to their own sanitary condition and to utilize the collected data as a basis for action towards the inauguration of such measures as to make Shanghai a port of the first class under the provisions suggested by the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

Such a survey should be jointly conducted by representatives of the International Settlement, the French Settlement, the Chinese City and the Customs Port Health Authority assisted by a League of Nations or International Health Board representative who has had some experience in conducting such surveys for other cities.

In conclusion, we may quote the words of Dr. Davis to the effect that "the needs and problems of this great port of Shanghai call for the highest qualities of imaginative foresight and statesmanship." It is hoped that no effort will be spared to make this important trade emporium of China a first class sanitary port which would act as a leaven to the ultimate benefit of other ports in this country.

The Resolution

After hearing Dr. Lim's paper the conference passed the following resolution:—

Whereas at the Joint Conference of the China Medical Missionary Association and the British Medical Association, attention has been drawn to the recommendation of the Health Committee of the League of Nations for the establishment of a Far Eastern Epidemic Intelligence Bureau and a Sanitary Convention for the Grading of Far Eastern Ports with a view to the adoption of a uniform quarantine procedure.

And whereas Shanghai, being the most important port of China, has

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not yet taken the necessary steps for it to be rated as a first class sanitary port under the proposed convention

Therefore, be it resolved that this Joint Conference of the China Medical Missionary Association and the British Medical Association, at its special sectional meeting on public health, places on record its recommendation that an International Sanitary Survey for Shanghai be conducted by representatives of the International Settlement, the French Settlement, the Chinese City, the Port Health Authority and the League of Nations or International Health Board, with a view to making Shanghai a first class sanitary port, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the authorities concerned.

PLANS FOR SHANGHAI'S ADMINISTRATION

Civil Instead of Military Government: Tsen Yu-chun Mentioned as Tupan

Peking, Feb. 2.

It is reported semi-officially that the Government are drafting regulations to govern the future administration of Shanghai, which will be of a civil instead of a military nature and under a Tupan, similar to the Tsingtao Administration.

A further report has it that Mr. Tsen Yu-chun, a member of the Anfu Cabinet of 1918, will be the Tupan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

C.M.S. LADIES MEETING

Farewell to Archdeacon Moule

The meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Church Missionary Society, held at the house of Mrs. Brooke-Smith, 97 Bubbling Well Road, last Friday, was a particularly interesting occasion, the speakers being Archdeacon Moule, who is returning Home next week after 37 years' missionary work in China, and Miss Dorcas Joynt, for many years connected with the work of the C. M. S. in Hangchow.

Archdeacon Moule, his kindly face beaming with love for his work among those whom he has served so faithfully, gave in a simple and unassuming way the story of his 37 years of service in Trinity College, Ningpo. In mentioning the influences which led him to China the Archdeacon paid tribute to his father's example, the Moody Mission, and the life of Paton, missionary to the New Hebrides. When he came to Trinity College in 1888 there were but 30 boys in the school, all sons of Christians, as Trinity's aim has always been to provide education for the sons of Christian Chinese, with the special view of finding those who would later undertake missionary educational work in smaller centres. No less than 175 of the boys who passed through the college have qualified as schoolmasters and have gone out to teach. "We have tried to light the light of the Gospel and I believe a light has been lit that will burn on,"said the Archdeacon.

After the college had gone on for some years an arrangement was made whereby these schoolmasters might come back for further special training in divinity, a theological course to prepare them for preachers of the Gospel. Forty-two men had been ordained and 105 had passed through the classes.

In speaking of the parting with his co-workers at Ningpo, Archdeacon Moule paid touching tribute to the feeling of fellowship which prevailed among them, saying that he felt that he and Bishop Sing were "more than brothers" and that his relationship with his associates was expressed in the inscription placed upon the parting gift of the Chinese clergy to him: "Together in the love of the Lord."

Miss Dorcas Joynt, for 25 years a C. M. S. worker in Hangchow, spoke with sympathetic insight of her work at Tunglu and Hangchow and more especially of her activities in India in Miss Sands' Soldiers Homes, ten of which furnish recreation and mental and spiritual inspiration for the Tommies in India. Whilst emphasizing the fact that religion is never forced upon the men, and that her work in no sense amounted to "Bible punching" Miss Joynt said that Gospel meetings were held for those who cared to attend and gave a dramatic story of a Jew who was led to accept Christianity.

STILL BUDDING
Mr. F. B. Walker Explaining Why

THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN

New Instrument Due in Next Few Months

An organ recital given by Mr. R. C. Young at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Monday was the last occasion on which the present organ will be heard, as its dismantling to make room for the new organ will be commenced next week.

The new organ, which has been built by Messrs. Harrison & Harrison, of Durham, is expected to arrive in Shanghai in April next, and it is hoped that it will be ready for use by about the end of August.

The new instrument forms part of the Cathedral War Memorial, for the completion of which fund a sum of approximately Tls. 20,000 is still required. A collection will be taken on behalf of this fund, to which it is hoped that those attending will contribute as generously as possible.

The new organ will consist of three manuals and pedal board, and will contain 46 sounding stops besides the usual couplers. There are also 29 control pistons and composition pedals.

The amount of mechanism and material which is contained in a modern organ is nothing short of amazing and its existance is probably never realized by the average individual. Even the smallest organ has some 700 or 800 pipes not to mention an elaborate system of trackers or control appliances. The new Cathedral organ will contain not less than 2,633 pipes. The action is pneumatic which means that by the pressing of each key a column of air is forced along a lead tube which in turn causes a small shutter to release air from the wind box which passes into the pipe which is required to sound. Besides the mechanical control there is also a large 10 h.p. electric motor for blowing.

The Blower's Revenge

In older organs this was usually done by working a lever resembling a pump handle and usually assigned to a small boy. The louder the organ was played the more work there was for him. He had his remedy, however, and most organists are entirely at his mercy, for should he let the wind run out the triumphal cords of the organ sink into an undignified groan.

In the new Cathedral organ the meter and blowing is to be placed in the tower, the wind being conveyed to the wind box below the sounding board by a large pipe. This has not only the advantage of saving space but also removes any noise or creaking.

The organ will occupy the whole of the north transept but will be supported on pillars about 10 feet above the ground so that that portion of the Cathedral will still be untilized. The large metal pipes on the front of the organ will completely fill the transept arch and will be grouped in three towers giving a grand and majestic appearance to the eye. The organ is also to have a handsome case of teak built in the shape of small arches for the first 10 feet upwards. This has been designed by Messrs. Stewardson, Spence & Watson of Shanghai.

Old Organ's Beautiful Tone

It will be with very great regret to many that the present old organ is removed from the Cathedral. In spite of its comparative age and heaviness of action this organ has a very beautiful tone and during its use has done most excellent service, the shortcomings of older organs being usually better known to the player than the listerner. The new organ, however, will be a most worthy memorial to those residents of Shanghai who fell in the Great War, and juding from the specifications given should be a credit to any Cathedral.

BLIND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Previously acknowledge	343.20	100.00
In memory of Cleo Packwood from Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Marden	5.00	
	348.20	100.00

THE enormous increase in armed robberies and other crimes of violence during the past few months is revealed in the Mixed Court report for December. Owing to the peculiar local political situation, the Chinese authorities still refuse to accept prisoners capitally convicted by the Court. At the end of the month no fewer than 31 felons cast for death lay in the Municipal Gaol.

"THE MIKADO"

BY W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

A.D.C. Production at Lyceum

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

The Mikado of Japan ... Mr. Murray Gilbert Davies
Nanki-poo—(His Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum) ... Mr. G. F. Dumbarton
Ko-ko—(Lord High Executioner of Titipu) ... Mr. D. J. Donne
Pooh-bah—(Lord High Everything Else) ... Capt. E. I. M. Barrett
Pish-Tush—(A Noble Lord) ... Mr. N. G. Maitland

Three sisters, wards of Ko-Ko
Yum-Yum ... Mrs. Isenman
Pitti-sing ... Mrs. Fawcett
Peep-bo ... Miss Warren.
Katisha—(An elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo) ... Mrs. Allison
Chorus of School Girls, Nobles, Guards and Coolies.

Act. I. Court-yard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence.
Act. II. Ko-Ko's Garden.

Chorus:—Messrs. Angel, Buyers, Bassett, Graham, Huxley, Johnston, Kettlewell, Learoyd, Lewis, Morrison, Newton, Nobbins, F. A. Sampson, F. A. Sampson, Jr., Schlobohm, Scott, Topham, Wynn, Walker.

Mesdames Chapell, Collinge, Peyton-Griffin, McKee, Schlobohm, Nachmacher, Smith, Scott.

Misses Bauld, Billings, Christen, Cohen, Dunne, Dudgeon, Froberg, Gulston, Hargreaves, Harvey, Hinds, Limby, MacMichael, Pearson, Prescott, Ross, Stewart, Toulmin, Wheeler.

Costumes and Properties arranged with assistance of Tientsin A.D.C. and Mrs. Wilson.

Lighting:—Messrs. Molyneux, Goodeh and J. Wilson.

Prompter:—Mr. Arthur Jones.
Properties:—Mr. R. W. Wingrove.
Scenery:—Mr. Wm. Armstrong.
Musical Director:—Mr. A. E. Heyes.
Assistant Pianist:—Mr. A. C. King.
Stage Manager:—Mr. Wm. Armstrong
Theatre Decorations:—Mr. R. E. Stewardson.

The whole produced by Mr. E. P. Graham-Barrow, assisted by Mr. E. S. Wilkinson.

The Lyceum wore a festive air on Thursday for the A.D.C.'s 200th production, the balconies festooned, flowers and shrubs everywhere and such an audience as Gilbert and Sullivan invariably draws. Altogether it was a memorable evening. The utmost care had been lavished on the performance, the scenery and dresses were lovely and there was far less evidence of the somewhat traditional "first night" nerves than one expects and would certainly be ready to forgive in a work so exacting. There were, it must be confessed, some deficiencies, though for the most part inseparable from an amateur production of operetta. Some of the principals' voices were not strong enough and, to be quite frank, not musical enough for what they had to do: for the music of Sullivan cannot be left wholly to the orchestra to support, as in a music-hall or pantomime song. And the diction was not always what it should be. A patter song like, "To sit in solemn silence in a dull dark dock" necessarily requires years of training in the singers and one would make allowance accordingly; but other songs are manageable enough and the words might have been heard better. Here of course experience counts enormously, for Mr. Donne, though not blessed with the voice of a Caruso, is well practised in theatrical arts and so "got his voice over" well. Mr. Donne has only come into the cast recently and he deserves to be complimented on his Ko-ko. He acted with plenty of spirit and humour and yet without exaggeration, except towards the end when he got rather exuberant, as Ko-kos are somewhat apt to become. One other point for criticism. Whether it was due to the scenery or the grouping of the chorus one cannot say, but in most cases the entrances of the principal characters were not effective: they seemed just to open the doors at the back and drift on like an ordinary member of the chorus. A moment's pause before the entry would make it more striking and without causing any drag on the play. The chorus both men and ladies, separately and together, were excellent and besides singing well they also threw in sufficient action and not too much. The orchestra also was good and Mr. Heyes led his huge company in masterly style.

Among the principals the outstanding figure was unquestionably Mr. Murray Davies as the Mikado. He has the natural advantage of a beautiful voice: but in addition he acted admirably and his diction was a positive joy. Also he made a fine entrance and except that his make-up did not give him years enough he cut a fine figure. Encores were clearly forbidden last night but the audience absolutely declined to allow the performance to go on till he had "roared again." Next to him comes Mrs. Allison as Katisha, a dramatic and notable performance. Here again make-up was a little deficient: to suit the part properly Mrs. Allison must do more violence to nature and endeavour to make her face unattractive. But she sang beautifully, her entrance was good and her acting a thrill. Mr. Dumbarton is not required to do much as Nankipoo but sing, but that he did charmingly; his song "A Wandering Minstrel" was particularly good. Mrs. Isenman played the part of Yum-Yum gracefully and the audience would have liked to hear more of "The moon and I." And Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Warren were a pretty pair of sisters, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo. Mr. N. G. Maitland as Pish-Tush is a well-practised entertainer, but was suffering from a cold last night. Captain Barrett as Pooh-Bah was delightful (though he made up his eyes too grotesquely in the second act). He cannot sing for small mice, if he will forgive us for saying so, but then he does not pretend to; his natural humour and easy manner were, however, delicious and he was perfectly suited as the Lord High Everything Else.

At the close, Mr. Graham Barrow told us that Mr. Armstrong had just completed 42 years' work as manager to the A. D. C. and he was dragged on to receive deserved applause. How much he has had to do with the success of its productions only the A. D. C. knows and among them "The Mikado" will certainly rank high.

AMERICAN VETERANS OF THE GREAT WAR

Directions for Obtaining the Adjusted Compensation under New Act

American ex-Service men who served in the Great War and who desire financial compensation under the Act recently passed by Congress should obtain application forms from American Legion Post, American Red Cross, Shanghai, the U.S. Military Attaché, American Legation, Peking, or the Adjusted Compensation Branch, Adjustant-General's Office, Washington.

This information has been conveyed to members of the American Legion by Commander Gardner Crane, on receipt of a letter from Mr. E. S. Cunningham, the U.S. Consul-General, writing on behalf of the War Department, which sent the following message to American ex-Service men in China:—

If you intend to apply eventually for adjusted compensation, please submit an application at once. . . The many advantages of such action are obvious, but the most important of these is the protection it gives your dependants in the case of your death.

If you have no desire to avail yourself of the benefits of the Act, notify the Department to that effect.

If you are one of the 140,000 veterans who have not corrected and returned their applications, please do not delay the necessary action longer.

There are 140,000 veterans to whom applications have been returned because of errors in preparation and who are still holding them.

WEDDING

Moss—Morton

A very pretty wedding was celebrated on Saturday morning at St. Joseph's Cathedral when Mrs. Mary Jane Morton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Free, was married to Mr. Sidney Adrian Moss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Moss. The Rev. Father McDonald, S.J. performed the ceremony. The bride looked charming in a smart ensemble costume of golden brown crêpe marocain, with a bengaline coat of the same shade, trimmed with kolinsky, and a hat of grosgrain ribbon to match. She carried tea roses. Mrs. Roland S. Haskell attended as matron of honour, wearing a stylish Paisley embroidered gown of red and black, trimmed with silk fringe, with which a small black hat was worn.

The bridegroom was attended by Dr. W. T. Findley as best man and Messrs. F. V. Chamberlin and C. S. Franklin acted as ushers. A reception, attended by many friends, was held at the Hotel Majestic and Mr. and Mrs. Moss left by the str. Cleveland for Manila and Baguio for a frip of six weeks. They will be at home after April 1, at 121 Rue Massenet.

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JANUARY A RECORD MONTH FOR FIRES

Two Big Blazes this Week

January was a record-breaking month for the Fire Department, 70 calls being received against the previous highest total of 63 in December, 1922. The majority of the fires, however, were quickly dealt with and with the exception of a cork factory at 1841/2 off Tongshan Road and the upper floor of two attached foreign residences on Edinburgh Road the outbreaks were of a fairly light nature.

Ten calls have been received since 6.19 a.m. on Saturday.

Most of the fires were trifling but at 10.30 on Sunday night Central Division responded to what threatened for some minutes to be a serious outbreak. The fire was awkwardly situated, being at the rear of the corner block of godowns and offices at the Balfour Road and Museum Road junction, the actual place alight being a practically unoccupied two-storeyed old building against Messrs. Pilkington Co.'s godown. The Central Division companies, with Soochow Road, arrived simultaneously and put in some speedy work. The fire had got a good hold with the flames shooting through the roof and making extremely rapid progress in every direction. Working jets through from every side, the fire was, however, held in about ten minutes, just as it was breaking through an unprotected opening into Pilkington's godown where a quantity of wired and other glass was stored. The latter was, however, saved practically undamaged. Although the fire was wedged in amongst a lot of other buildings, the Central Division, with their very prompt work, saved the latter from being damaged.

A very big fire, which could be seen for miles around, occurred on Tuesday morning at the Foh Sing No. 1 Flour Mill on North Soochow Road, just across Stonebridge, in Chapei. The Settlement Brigade received a call for assistance from the manager of the mill at 4.37 a.m., Sinza Division responding and laying on immediately on arrival from the nearest Settlement hydrant. The second, third and fourth floors of the old mill, a five-storeyed building facing the creek, were in flames, and the fire was already down to the first floor and rapidly ascending. It was through, also, to the three-storeyed godown on the east and spreading practically right along the top floor of the latter.

Lines were taken round to the back to save the large six-storeyed mill, which was just over 20 feet away and the glass of the windows of which already was cracking. Covering jets were directed from the alleyway and the roof of No. 3 godown and lines were taken up into the big mill, but to save water damage there these were hoisted up the outside of the building and worked from the windows. Chapei had arrived in force in the meantime, but their efforts were mainly concentrated on the burning mill in front, also with jets at the back playing into the fire, they perhaps not quite realizing that it was impossible to save the old mill and that the only thing to do was to save the adjoining property as much as possible, especially the main mill which towered at the back. One of the large pumps was sent from Central Division as a good deal of property was at stake.

Sinza Division, working under the direction of the Deputy Chief Officer, Capt. Dyson, assisted by Station Officer Watkins, put in two or three hours' hard work, and during the latter stages of the fire the Chief Officer, Mr. Pett, attended. It was practically owing to the endeavours of the Settlement Brigade that the fire was kept out of the main mill and No. 3 godown.

The fire was practically finished at 8 a.m. and there being no further need for the Settlement Department, they took up.

At 3 a.m. on Wednesday, Central Division of the Fire Department turned out to a rather serious outbreak of fire in a fairly large modern piece goods hong in the very congested block to the north-west of the junction of Avenue Edward VII and Shantung Road.

The first intimation the Fire Department got was from their Central Watch Tower and, when Central arrived, the fire had got a good hold on the premises, No. 34, in the Zee Zang Liang alleyway, and was spreading with alarming rapidity. The centre of the premises, the first floor rooms and the rear portion of the ground floor, were a mass of flame.

The fire was tackled from the rear and the flanks, but for some minutes it was impossible to do any effective work on the front as the flames were belching from the main entrance and enveloping the alleyway. After a strong breaking-down jet had been directed into the heart of the fire, however, it was possible to make an entrance into the premises from that side. The fire had spread to a large drying stage at the rear, which had been covered in and converted into living rooms, the rear staircase being already consumed and the roof having fallen in, but jets were worked on this section from the roofs of the adjoining buildings and taken into the rooms by means of ladders.

After a very stiff fight, the fire was got under control, but considerable work had to be put in before it was finally extinguished.

The property and the stock, the majority of which latter was perishable, suffered severe damage. The fire is reported to have been, caused by the upsetting of a charcoal stove.

The premises were occupied by two companies, only one of which was insured.

CHAPEI PAWNSHOPS ON STRIKE

Declining to Accept Loot at Famine Prices

The pawnshops of Chapei have declared a general strike, taking place as from Wednesday.

Inquiries show that since the arrival of the Fengtien troops, the shopkeepers have been compelled to accept loot contrary to their regulations and have been compelled to pay exorbitant prices for valueless articles. The ire of the merchants reached the limit on Tuesday when a soldier brought in a piece of fur worth only a few dollars and demanded $30. Upon the clerk refusing to accept it, the soldier is alleged to have threatened to take his life.

The merchants have now issued notifications to the effect that they will not re-open their stores until they have assurance that they will not be molested or that all troops have been withdrawn locally.

ARRESTED on the Bund where he begged alms from a plain clothes officer, a Persian, Gormen Habib, was sent to prison for a week by the Mixed Court. The man, it was stated, at first said he was a citizen of the United States, but this was found to be untrue. He then claimed to be a British subject, but H. M. Consulate also refused jurisdiction.

A verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown was returned at an inquest held at the Public Mortuary on Wednesday on the body of a Chinese named Voong Sih-ban, who was found shot dead on Great Western Road Extension recently. This was the detective officer of the Tsingpu police who came to Shanghai to watch the movements of a kidnapping gang intent upon abducting the son of a wealthy native of Tsingpu.

THE creation of another local official post, "Tupan of the Special Municipal Area of Shanghai," has given fresh impetus to the ignoble scramble for places that has been going on since the arrival of the victorious Fengtien general. In accordance with custom, Marshal Lu Yung-hsiang, Tupan of Kiangsu and Pacification Commissioner of Kiangsu and Anhui, has recommended his chief lieutenant, Gen. Ho Feng-lin, who was Defence Commissioner here before the autumn war; Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, Tupan of Chêkiang, has put forward his man, Mr. Chow Dai-shen; Gen. Hsia Chiao, Civil Governor of Chêkiang, wants Mr. Shu Tung-ho in the position; Mr. Tang Shao-yi and Dr. W. W. Yen, former premiers and Mr. Tseng Yu-tsen, a prominent Anfuite, have also been mentioned; and, of course, "Kiangsu people want a Kiangsu man."

OFFICIAL CHANGES

New Appointments in Shanghai District

As was predicted last week a number of local official changes have been announced by Gen. Chang Chung-chang, Commander-in-Chief of the Fengtien Forces in Shanghai.

First of all a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Tao Chia-yao, Tupan of Rehabilitation Affairs, appointed by Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan and Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, because of his close connexion with the former.

Then the post of Commissioner of Shanghai and Woosung Police has been rendered vacant by the resignation of Col. Wang Kuo-pang, also Marshal Chi's appointee, and Mr. Shang Tse-yuan has been placed in the position by Gen. Chang.

Mr. Yuan Chi-van has been appointed acting Shanghai District Magistrate pending the arrival of Mr. Li Tsi-chi, who is at present in Peking. A warrant has also been issued for Marshal Chi's appointee, Fan Hua-chuan, and the people of Shanghai have asked Gen. Chang to appoint their nominees, Mr. Yao Fu-tung, who is Chairman of the City Chamber of Commerce, to the post.

The director of the Revenue Bureau, Mr. Liang Feng-shen, has also tendered his resignation, his appointment having come from Marshal Chi.

Gen. Yang Pang-fan, director of the Arsenal, has tendered his resignation and has left for Hangchow to join his chief, Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, and it is expected that the former director, Gen. Hsia Pang-ching, will be re-appointed to the position.

Mr. S. K. Shen, managing director of the two local Railways, has resumed his duties and will no doubt continue in office.

Gen. Kung Pang-doh, former Occupation Commissioner, has been ordered by the Civil Governor of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun, to rally all of Marshal Chi's defeated soldiers and take steps towards their repatriation. It is said that Gen. Sun Chuan-fang has recruited a large number of them into his army.

Mr. Wang Pin-yen, commandant of the Chapei Volunteers and Protectionary Force, has been instructed to give his aid to Gen. Kung in this connexion.

A number of other appointments have been made by Gen. Chang Chung-chang, with, it is said, the approval of the Central Government and the Civil Governor of Kiangsu. These are as follow:—

Gen. Chin Shou-ling to be Defence Commissioner of Soochow and Changchow.

Col. Chen Tsu-kuei to be Commissioner of Police at Soochow.

Mr. Tang Teh-nien, manager of the Shanghai Chinese Telegraph Administration Office, *vice* Mr. T. K. Lowe who is unable to continue his duties owing to illness.

Mr. Pao Chi-yuan, managing director of the Shanghai Chinese Telephone Bureau.

Should the Central Government approve, Gen. Chang will appoint Mr. Chow Tz-cheng, his departmental director of communications, managing director of the Shanghai-Nanking and Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railways. Such an appointment, however, would have to receive the sanction of the British and Chinese Corporation.

As Mr. Li Tsu-kuei has been offered a better position, it is said that he will not assume his post as Shanghai District Magistrate. The acting Magistrate, Mr. Ying Chi-van, who is also Gen. Chang's nominee, will, it is understood, also be given another appointment. Who will be appointed successor has not yet been announced, but, meanwhile, the Civil Governor of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun, has instructed Mr. Yao Mo-lien, his appointee, to take over the position at once while a chance offers.

THE Central Government has issued a formal denial of the report that it contemplates the appointment of Mr. Tseng Yu-tsen, a prominent Anfu member, as Tupan for the Rehabilitation of Shanghai and Sungkiang, describing the matter as a "newspaper appointment."

OBITUARY

Mr. A. B. Rosenfeld

One of Shanghai's older residents, Mr. A. B. Rosenfeld, died at the General Hospital early on Wednesday morning, after a lingering illness at the age of 52. Mr. Rosenfeld first entered the hospital in october, but showed signs of recovery and on numerous occasions was permitted to return to his hotel. Physicians looked forward to an improvement, and on December 23, Mr. Rosenfeld again left to spend the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Rosenfeld and his numerous friends, but it was a short time only until his condition forced him again to his bed, to which he was confined until his death.

Mr. Rosenfeld is survived by his widow and son Julius, who is now on his way across the Pacific. Mr. and Mrs. J. Spunt, who are also relatives, are now in New York.

Deceased was very well known for his Masonic activities in Shanghai, as well as in America. He was Past Master of Saltoun Lodge, Past Principal of the Rising Sun Royal Arch Chapter, and prime mover and first president of the local Shrine Club, Nomad Oasis, in addition to which his interest and activities in other branches of Masonry did not lapse. He acted for Islam Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., prior to their arrival for the ceremonial in Shanghai two years ago.

Mr. Rosenfeld arrived in Shanghai nearly 30 years ago and from the beginning he was connected with cotton interests here, first with Ilbert & Co., with whom he remained until 1904. In 1905 the firm of Spunt & Rosenfeld was formed, with which he remained until 1916, when he returned to America, intending to retire. His active disposition did not permit of idleness and he returned to Shanghai, and resumed his activities in business in conjunction with his son under the name of A. B. Rosenfeld & Son. Deceased has been considered Shanghai's foremost authority on cotton and the cotton markets, and the weekly circular issued by his firm was eagerly sought for by both foreign and Chinese cotton merchants.

Deceased was a member of the American Club, the Race Club, the American Chamber of Commerce, the Synagogue, as well as various charitable organizations. He was the possessor of a life membership of the American Red Cross, signed by President Wilson, though, perhaps, his proudest possession was a recognition by the American Government for his services in connexion with the sale of Liberty Bonds, during the various financial campaigns of the World War. In racing he had several successes, the most notable being San Juan, which in 1921, won two races and was placed in half dozen more.

Mr. Rosenfeld was in his day a keen volunteer, having been a member of the American Company. His efforts made several Washington Balls in former years a great success and a credit to the American community. At one time he organized and drilled the Bugle Band of the Volunteers.

The funeral took place on Thursday at the Jewish Cemetery, Baikal Road, and was attended by a large gathering of deceased's Masonic and other friends. The services in the Chapel were conducted under the auspices of the Jewish Church, while the Scottish Rite, of which Mr. Rosenfeld was a member, with other Masons, attended informally.

MRS. SILBERMAN'S FUNERAL

The mortal remains of Mrs. I. Silberman, who died in Dr. Fearn's hospital on Tuesday night, were laid to rest in the Jewish Cemetery in Baikal Road on Wednesady afternoon in the presence of bereaved relatives and many sorrowing friends. The deceased lady was held in high respect, and numerous floral tributes to her worth were laid upon the grave.

A cigarette and money exchange shop situated at No. 319 Hupeh Road was entered and robbed by four men at 9 o'clock on Wednesday night. Two were armed with pistols, and the gang got away with money and goods to the value of $300.

THE MORAL WELFARE LEAGUE

Review of the Year's Work at Annual General Meeting: Definite Gains Noted

The annual meeting of the Moral Welfare League was held on Thursday last week at 23 Yuen Ming Yuen Road. Mr. J. C. Clark presided, and was supported by the Rev. J. W. Crofoot and Mr. I. Mason. The Chairman in his opening remarks referred to the quiet work of the Committee during the past year, and also alluded to the expiry of all brothel licences under the five-year policy of the Shanghai Municipal Council, and the need for "follow-up" work.

The Secretary then presented the annual report, one section of which dealt with the Mixed Court Home experiment which was continued for about a year and befriended over 100 women and girls for short periods. This was felt to be a useful piece of constructive service, and the Municipal Council granted Tls. 500 towards it. Unfortunately the voluntary contributions received were not sufficient for the modest requirements of the Home, so it had to be closed. The Committee hopes that some similar effort may be revived when more public support can be relied upon, as there exists a need which is not quite met by any existing organization.

Medical Society's Proposals

A few public addresses were given during the year, and two pamphlets issued, as part of the programme of educating and stimulating public opinion with regard to moral reforms. Reference was made to the proposals of the Shanghai Medical Society, which were almost entirely approved by the League. Respecting street conditions the observations of the League lead to the conclusion that these are much improved over what obtained five or six years ago. Speaking about the expiry of the licences for brothels, the report says:" No one supposes that this means the end of commercialized vice; such results cannot be secured by a stroke of the pen or the promulgation of a law. Problems will remain which require wisdom and patience in their solving, and the Police will need the support of us all in their efforts. We are, however, convinced that as a result of the five-year policy there is less open prostitution and solicitation thereto, and conditions are greatly improved for those who unfortunately are still the victims of vice."

The Honorary Treasurer the Rev. J. W. Crofoot, presented a statement of account showing that including balances brought forward, the income for the year was $3,238.03 and the expenses $3,201.83, leaving a balance of $36.20 in hand. The budget for 1925 calls for $1,500; this means some curtailment of activities, but it is hoped to continue the good work and make further progress. Reviewing the past ten years during which Mr. Crofoot has been interested in Moral welfare work at Shanghai, he said that while not all had been accomplished which had been hoped, yet he noted definite gains and was encouraged to continue working to help bring about a still better state of things.

Officers of the League for the present year were elected as follows:—Chairman, Capt. H. MacKinnon: Vice-chairman, Dr. M. Polk and Mr. J. C. Clark; Hon. Secretary, Rev. J. W. Crofoot; Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Ruth Leonard. The members of the Executive Committee elected, in addition to the Officers, are:—Lord Addington, Mr. I. Mason, Miss M. F. Cross, Mr. A. Horne, Miss A. Holway, Mrs. W. H. Lacy, Miss Ting and Mr. T. Y. Chao.

Following the election, Dr. S. M. Woo of the Council for Health Education gave an interesting address on the dangers of venereal diseases; by the use of graphic illustrations he showed the physical consequences, and then showed how healthy occupations and exercises fortify against the temptations to vice.

FOUR soldiers were arrested in East Kashing Road on Wednesday morning. They were unarmed and stated they came into the Settlement by mistake. The police deprived them of their uniforms and put them back over the boundary.

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE

MONEY AND EXCHANGE

OFFICIAL RATES.

Feb. 6.

Bank's Demand Selling Rate for £1 at 3/1 13/16=Tls. 6.35 at 72.40=$8.77

Bank's Demand Selling Rate for G.$100 at 75½=Tls. 132.45 at 72.40=$182.94

Chinese Dollars, market rate	72.675
Copper Cash	289,500
Bar Silver	32¼
Bank rate of Discount	4 per cent.
New York on London	G.$4.78⅞

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/1¾
Demand	3/1 13/16
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	75¼
Demand	75½
PARIS—	
Demand	1398
INDIA—	
Demand	209¼
HONGKONG—	
Demand	74
JAPAN—	
Demand	51½
BATAVIA—	
Demand	188
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	74⅞

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/2⅜
4 m/s. credits	3/3
4 m/s. Docs.	3/3⅛
6 m/s. credits	3/3⅜
6 m/s. Docs.	3/3½
NEW YORK—	
Demand	76½
4 m/s. credits	77½
4 m/s. Docs.	78
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1470
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/2
New York T.T.	75⅝

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR FEBRUARY.

Hk. Tls.	5.72 at 3/1 11/16	£1
„	1 at 15.49	Frs. 1390½
„	1.20 at 75	Gold $1
„	1 at 51.625	Yen 2.16
„	2 at 208.625	Rupees 2.32
„	1 at 1.50	Mex. 1.50
„	1 at 17.925	It. Lire 19.97

Marks and Roubles no quotation.

AMERICAN-ORIENTAL BANK

Bank Closing Rates

Feb. 6.

SELLING DEMAND DRAFTS

U.S.	G.$100.00=Mex.	$183.20
Stg.	£1.0.0=Mex.	$ 8.79
Frs.	100.00=Mex.	$ 10.02
Yen.	100.00=Mex.	$ 71.23

BUYING DEMAND DRAFTS

U.S.	G.$100.00=Mex.	$179.90
Stg.	£1.0.0=Mex.	$ 8.61
Frs.	100.00=Mex.	$ 9.73
Yen.	100.00=Mex.	$ 69.27

ITALIAN BANK FOR CHINA

Selling Rates, Feb. 6:—

It. Lire 18.00	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 3.90	Tl. 1
It. Lire 9.09	Y. 1
It. Lire 13.03	Mex. $1

SINO-SCANDINAVIAN BANK

Selling Rates, Feb. 6:—

Tl. I.: Norw. Kr.:	4.81
Tl. I.: Swed. Kr.:	2.70
Tl. I.: Dan. Kr.:	4.11

WEEK'S EXCHANGE NOTES

Feb. 7.

At the close of business on the 5th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 66,764,000 and $33,750,000.

These figures include Tls. 34,010,000 and $21,500,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 4,350 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—

2,662 bars from America.
168 „ „ London.

2,830 Bars

Shipments were:—Nil.

SYCEE.

There were no movements.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$600,000 from Tungchow.
200,000 „ Wuhu.

$800,000

Shipments were:—

$400,000 to Tientsin.
200,000 „ Tsingtao.
150,000 „ Dairen.
50,000 „ Chefoo.

$800,000

Silver

When last writing on January 23 the London price of silver was 32 3/16d. spot and 32d. forward as against 32¼d. ready and 32⅛d. forward, the quotation wired yesterday. There have been various small fluctations, the highest level during the period under review being 32⅜d. ready and 32 3/16d. forward, and the lowest 32d. spot and 31 11/16d. forward on January 24. India on the whole has been a small buyer, while China has been more or less out of the market altogether. Stocks of sycee are still increasing and have improved by Tls. 27 lakhs since January 23. Stocks of dollars are about the same. The price of dollars, as is usual after China New Year, has had a substantial drop and were quoted yesterday 72.675 as against 73.7 on January 23.

Exchange

The market has been a very quiet one since reopening after China New Year Holidays with very little merchant business passing. On January 23 exchange closed at 3/1½d. T.T. and G.$75 T.T. On the 29th the opening rates were 3/1¾d. T.T. and G.$75½ T.T. Sterling remained at this level until the 2nd instant when the official rate went up to 3/2 but fell away again early on the 3rd instant to 3/1⅞d. where it remains up to the time of writing. The market closes with a firmer undertone with sellers at T.T. 3/2d. February and 3/1 15/16d. March. Bills are quoted 4 m/s L/C at 3/2⅞d. ready and forward and G.$77 ready and forward.

THE GOLD PARITY

International Cooperation Needed

London, Jan. 29.

Mr. Walter Leaf, the Chairman of the Westminster Bank, presiding at the annual meeting of shareholders of the bank, said that it did not follow that because Great Britain had reached gold parity she could immediately remove the embargo on the export of gold. This was due to expire at the end of 1925 and its non-renewal might confidently be hoped for.

Mr. Leaf asked whether the time had not arrived for a conference of national banks of issue to formulate a scheme for co-operation with regard to gold reserves as suggested at the Geneva Conference. He added that the re-establishment of gold parity would be of immense assistance to international trade.—Reuter.

HEAVY GOLD EXPORTS FROM AMERICA

London, Feb. 3.

The Washington correspondent of the "Morning Post" says that the heavy exports of gold from the United States are attracting attention in the press, but without arousing nervousness or substantially affecting the markets.

Gold to the value of £28,000,000 was exported in December and January and financial circles anticipate heavy movements to continue for some time, owing to the operation of an Anglo-American financial understanding with the object of fortifying the position of Britain preparatory to a return to the gold standard, since a large proportion of the exports are going to British centres like India and Austrália, thus relieving London of strain and consequently not depressing the sterling exchange.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. CONSULAR FEES

The rate for the collection of fees at the American Consulate-General has been re-established for the current month, as follows:—

Mex.	$1.00=U.S.	$0.5550
U. S.	$1.00=Mex.	$ 1.81
„	$2.00= „	$ 3.61
„	$2.50= „	$ 4.51
„	$5.00= „	$ 9.01
„	$7.00= „	$ 12.62
„	$9.00= „	$ 16.22
„	$10.00= „	$ 18.02

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Quiet Re-opening after Chinese New Year: Little Business as Yet Transacted

Feb. 7.

No important change in the commercial situation falls to be recorded following upon the opening of the markets after China New Year. Chinese merchants seem to be counting upon a distinctly better position owing to the settlement of political questions here, but the foreign trading community is more cautious, fearing that very little more than an armistice has been arrived at.

As matters are, piece goods do not show any striking return for the week, and compared with a year ago the opening of the market is disappointing. Should, however, there be a good measure of stability following the present arrangement between the political rivals, the outlook promises well.

Yarn is as much affected as are piece goods by the political situation, and only a small business has been transacted. Chinese cotton is meanwhile weaker.

The export market is quiet, not only being under the influence of the political situation but also of a higher price level than foreign consumers are prepared to pay.

Piece Goods

Usually following the China New Year holidays the piece goods market shows considerable life and with it a good deal of strength. This year, however, there is a striking contrast to 12 months ago, and things have been dull and disappointing. A year ago there was a considerable amount of stock in hand which had been imported at comparatively cheap rates, and importers were quite prepared to take advantage of the higher prices ruling after the New Year settlement to dispose of it. So the Chinese year opened briskly. At the present time all the cargo held locally has been imported at considerably higher figures, and the China values do not show any chance of covering replacing costs. Consequently cargo has been parted with only sparingly, and it is stated that one or two important firms have not sold a solitary package.

The position is that, except in the case of a very few chops, many of the offers here are up to replacing costs, the more so as Manchester prices have shown a tendency to stiffen within the past week. As already pointed out the Chinese have acquired an optimism, not generally shared by foreign firms, that the recent political settlement is likely to be permanent, but if their view is correct every reason exists for a hopeful outlook, both as regards the quantity of trade and prices.

This week the auctions were resumed, but as a general rule they were too soon for the trade. Many of the most important dealers have not yet returned from up-country, and as a consequence this section of the market was to a large extent in the hands of the speculators. Orders were largely absent because the news of the settlement at Shanghai had not been received in interior centres in time to allow dealers there to send in their orders and accordingly the market was largely concerned with adjusting prices. Blacks and one or two other varieties lost what they had gained prior to the holidays, but it is felt that when this process has been completed a general advance may be looked for in the present state of local market sentiment.

Cotton, Yarn, Etc.

China Cotton—On the whole deliveries of cotton from the interior have been well sustained, the only shortage being from districts such as Kiangyin where hostilities have been in progress. Prices are much easier, and an interesting theory is put forward to account for this. It has been found on many previous occasions that the same sentiment prevails in Japanese houses in different parts of the world, and when this becomes bearish, selling takes place on their part in all centres. At present it is understood that Japanese holders are selling not only in New York and Bombay, but also in Shanghai, and hence the present weakness. Spot market quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 40/40½: Shanghai 39½/40: Shensi 40: Hankow 39½. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the rates are:—February 39.90: March 39.80: April 39.65: May 39.70: June 39.70: July 39.70.

Yarn—The yarn market has scarcely had time to re-open, many of the dealers being still away. One of the few transactions reported is a shipment of 4,000 bales of 16's and 20's to Szechuan. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the following quotations were current yesterday morning: — February 162.70: March 161.80: April 161.70: May 161.50: June 161.50: July 161.40.

Silk

The silk market is generally quiet, both here and at Lyons and New York. Lyons seems to be holding back.

The tendency is for lower prices.

Produce

Owing to the recent recurrence of hostilities in the Shanghai vicinity and also to the holidays, the local markets have been lifeless during the week. There is a fair inquiry from abroad, but the prices quoted are of little interest locally. Few transactions are therefore taking place.

Hides are in fair demand from Europe, but supplies are difficult to secure.

Untanned Goatskins—The market on this side continues firm, but buyers are in America are holding off to a certain extent in anticipation of lower prices which are unlikely to be realized.

Groundnuts—Local and Tsingtao values are much in excess of buyers' ideas and Home interest is at present largely confined to Indian cargo.

Sesamum Seed—There is no interest in this commodity.

Tobacco—Small supplies of good quality cargo are available, but Home buying is very limited.

Eggs and Egg Products—Negotiations have now commenced for the new season's cargo.

Other Produce—Practically nothing doing.

THE TEA MARKET

Cooperative Society's Operations

London, Jan. 29.

Sir Auckland Geddes in acknowledging a statement from the Co-operative Society with regard to operations in the tea market for which he asked at the Royal Commission inquiring into food prices, acquits this organization of buying tea beyond its legitimate requirements for present or anticipated future needs. He observes that the statement shows that no speculaive buying has occurred.—Reuter.

SOVIET BUYERS IN COTTON MARKET

Purchase of 1,000,000 lb. of Yarn

London, Jan. 31.

Interest has been created by the reappearance of Soviet representatives in the Lancashire cotton market in the past few days. They have placed orders for over 1,000,000 lb. of yarn against security of Russian skins.—Reuter.

RUBBER RESTRICTION

Increase for Quarter of 5 Per Cent.

London, Jan. 31.

The Mincing Lane rubber market to-day opened with buyers at 1s. 5d. and later became stronger, 1s. 5⅜d. being paid for all positions except April/June delivery, which was bought at 1s. 5⅜d.

On the past quarter's average price working out at 1s. 5.9983d., it is officially announced that the quota for the February/April quarter exportable under the minimum duty from Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and Malaya has been increased by 5 per cent. to 55 per cent.—Reuter.

JAPAN'S JANUARY TRADE

Tokyo, Feb. 4.

The Finance Department reports that for the month of January, Japan's foreign trade amounted to Y.147,000,000 in exports and Y.226,000,000 in imports, the balance being Y.79,000,000 in favour of imports.—Eastern News Agency.

RUSSO-CHINESE TRADE

Moscow, Feb. 3.

With a view to the furtherance of trade between Russia and West China, it has been decided, as a result of the recent exchange of memorandums between the representative of the Moscow Government and the local Chinese authorities, that Russia will establish five Soviet consulates within the New Dominion while the same number of Chinese consulates will be established in Central Asia.—Eastern News Agenry.

NEW ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING WORKS

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Engineering & Shipbuilding works, Ld., held yesterday, it was announced that the profit for the year including the carry forward from 1923 amounted to Tls. 376,294.05 and it was decided that the shareholders be recommended to apportion this amount as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay Preference Share Dividend at 8 per cent.	120,000.00
To pay a dividend of 15 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares	157,500.00
To carry forward balance	98,794.05
	376,294.05

ANGLO & LONDON PARIS NATIONAL BANK

Statement of Accounts

We have received from the Anglo & London Paris National Bank of San Francisco the following statement drawn up at close of business on December 31 last:—

RESOURCES

		$
Loans and discounts		61,546,806.10
U.S. Bonds and certificates		15,657,601.65
Bonds and securities		9,929,015.98
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank		240,000.00
Banking premises		2,245,007.45
Redemption Fund with U. S. Treasurer		205,000.00
Other assets		484,269.01
Customers' liability on acceptances		3,229,998.37
Commodity drafts in transit	2,210,851.64	
Cash and Sight Exchange	28,977,900.70	
		$124,726,450.90

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	5,000.000.00
Surplus and undivided profits	3,770,571.67
Circulation outstanding..	4,100.000.00
Other liabilities	887,459.38
Acceptances	3,777,367.33
Deposits	107,191,052.52
	$124,726,450.90

Liabilities against letters of credit issued, but not yet drawn against .. $7,003,924.66

COAL OUTPUT

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending January 17 amounted to 19,301 tons and the sales during the same period to 38.192 tons.

Messrs. George McBain have received a telegram from the manager of the Mentoukou Mine stating that the output of coal for the month of January was 16,675 tons.

GULA-KALUMPONG OUTPUT

Messrs. Ilbert & Co., Ld., the local secretaries of the Gula-Kalumpong Rubber Estates Ld. are in receipt of the following telegram from their Penang Agents:—

Output of dry rubber for January 1925	93,000 lb.
Shipped	72,468 lb.
Cocoanuts	800,000 nuts
Rainfall	17½ inches

JANUARY RUBBER OUTPUT

	lb.
Anglo-Dutch	67,000
Anglo-Java	174,000
Java Consolidated	48,700
Kroewoek	70,000
Ziangbe	65,500

COFFEE OUTPUT

	piculs.
Kali Glidik	445

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CORRESPONDENCE

CHILD LABOUR IN CHINA MILLS

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—The mail has just brought in two press cuttings from your paper, one dated November 28 and the other of a later date signed by Dr. Hodgkin. The first refers to what I am supposed to have said to the Hull Rotary Club. Will you permit me to tell you what actually happened?

As soon as I got to this country I was asked by various groups to speak on factory conditions in China, and during the autumn I have been doing this in various centres, and in some places have spoken to the Rotary Clubs. At these meetings I have told people what I saw in China, supporting my remarks by reading extracts from the Child Labour Report, and in every case I have pointed out that British people are responsible for some of these conditions.

In Hull I referred to Article 23 in the Covenant, which lays down that "Members of the League 'will endeavour to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend,'" and went on to say that when nations disregarded this principle you had a root cause of war. This I imagine the Press interpreted as referring to the present war in China. How could any one think I should give utterance to such a futile statement?

Then with regard to the second point—a Chinese woman speaking in America last year, referring to the industrial situation amongst other things, said that this system had come to China from the West, bringing its wonderful mechanical device and invention, but somehow all that had been learnt about the treatment of the people in industry seemed to have been dropped overboard on the way. I repeated this.

In speaking over here I am saying no more than I did in China, but when 20 minutes, or at the most half an hour, is the time at my disposal, you will realize how difficult it is to say all one would wish. I can only say I try to give an all round view of the case.

Knowing something of the difficulties that lie before the Council in dealing with the Child Labour Report and seeing the plea in its last paragraph for the "moral and active support" of the residents in the settlement, I felt it would help if the attention of various groups in this country were drawn to the matter too.

In the case of the Rotary Clubs, messages have been sent to the Shanghai Club urging it to do all in its power to help the Council in making these recommendations effective. The International Conference at Prague of the various Associations for Labour Legislation also dealt with the matter, and I believe has communicated with Shanghai.

I shall be glad if you can see your way to publishing this letter.

I am, etc.,
AGATHA HARRISON.

London, Jan. 3, 1925.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Your article in Notes and Comments of the 2nd appears to me to be neither quite fair to Miss Harrison nor of much assistance to those who are striving to improve industrial conditions in China.

As far as I am aware neither Miss Harrison nor anyone else considers that all Child Labour can be stopped with a stroke of the pen. The recommendations of the Commission,—which are surely the main subject of this correspondence,—do not go beyond the prohibition of the employment in factories and industries of children under twelve at the end of a period of four years.

The opposition of parents to which you refer is a difficulty which has been met in every country of the world both as regards child labour and education. In none of them has it been found insuperable. A study of the report will show that the Commission gave due weight both to it and to the other difficulties which you mention in your article.

The prohibition of the employment of young children is not to be applied to British-owned factories only but to all factories situated within the Settlement boundaries. A study of the report will also show that the work in the power-driven factory with its long hours, monotony, liability to accident, atmospheric and sanitary conditions is probably far worse for children than employment at their homes or in agriculture.

If any progress is to be made at all a beginning must be made somewhere, and it is for the International Settlement to take the first step and to point the way to the new Shanghai district and to the country generally. Such a step *can* now be taken if we can procure the adoption of the recommendations of Part III of the Report of the Commission.

Miss Harrison's letter shows it was not the individual British employer whom she held to be responsible for the position in China, but the British people generally, and she appears to have referred both to the duty of members of the League of Nations of securing humane conditions of labour in countries with which they have industrial relations, (which duty is surely far greater when these nations control the conditions in an International Settlement), and secondly to the fact that, whereas we have introduced into China all our latest mechanical devices we have laid far less stress on the progress we have made in dealing with the workers themselves.

Finally with regard to your parting shot; Miss Harrison has herself shown how the talks she has given may influence the electorate of Shanghai, who at the momment hold the key to progress. Efforts are also being made so to educate public opinion in China as to facilitate the adoption throughout the country of those fundamental principles regarding child labour,—a day of rest, working hours and the safeguarding of the health and limbs of the worker, all of which have been adopted in the West and which are recommended by the Commission. There is a crying need that all those who come out to China for Mission or other philanthropic work, and for business too, should understand the conditions here and have some knowledge of industrial history and welfare work at home. Miss Harrison may be doing far more than you think to change the ideas of the Chinese.

I am, etc.,
A.

Shanghai, Feb. 5, 1925.

ARRESTED RUSSIANS

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Kindly give space in your esteemed paper to the following:

We despatched a special correspondent to collect all possible information and to make inquiries in regard of the Russians arrested as "spies" and kept at the Arsenal.

This morning, at 9 a.m., all the Russians have been released, thanks to the intervention of O. C. the armoured train which arrived here yesterday.

This afternoon, several of these unlucky Russians called on us and told us a sad story of their humiliation, sufferings and tortures to which they have been subjected at the hands of the Chinese soldiers—their guard.

The *régime* at their prison reminds one of the middle-age era; in the dirty cells, given only three bowls of rice daily and insufficient quantity of water—the Russians have been kept in feet-fetters all the time since their arrest (in some cases since 18th instant); the handcuffs they had to wear from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.—daily.

They all have been charged as "spies" for Marshal Chang Tso-lin, notwithstanding the fact that some of them have been arrested in the French Concession, the Railway Station, etc., and that all of them are wearing the remnants of the Russian uniform.

No evidence or proof has been given to prove that they are guilty of espionage.

All their money, their merchandise (in one case to the amount of $100) and what is the most important—all their documents have been taken from them.

To compel the arrested to confess being spies, they have been subjected to the most atrocious treatment; they have been mercilessly beaten, their wrists and fingers were tied up to the specially devised torture-apparatuses, palms upturned, and cruelly beaten upon them by bamboo-canes; their calves suffered the same treatment performed by the combined efforts of two or three soldiers "working" on one man at a time.

The men who visited us all bear the medical evidence of the treatment they have received, the cruel bruises above the ankles and on the wrists caused by wearing the chains, the swollen palms, and blue-black spots—the traces of cruel beating.

And some of these men have been wounded while fighting the Turks and the Kurds together with the British Expeditionary Forces.

To think only that all this has happened within the "civilized" Shanghai, the Orient's Capital!

Is it really possible? And what kind of compensation can these men hope for? Whom to apply to?

These men are destitute now and we have opened the subscription list for their benefit at our Office; 40 North Szechuen Road.

I am, etc.,
N. V. KOLESNIKOFF.
Editor of the Russian newspaper "Russia."

Shanghai, Jan. 29, 1925.

THE RUSSIANS IN THE WAR

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Having on several occasions when I have been in Shanghai read in the columns of your paper various opinions of the behaviour of Russians in fighting for the Chinese, I beg to ask your readers, in the same medium, for their consideration of my view. Has it ever dawned on anyone, of the net reaction to residents of Shanghai and other cities in China, apart from the question of prestige? As I see it their conduct is most emphatically to the advantage of residents and commerce in general, besides providing a means of livelihood, which, if precarious, at least fulfils the first law of nature—self-preservation, for the individuals in question. They are unquestionably of great assistance to the General under whom they are serving, and accepting the fortunes of a war which, for them, is far from a picnic; and are "putting the wind up" the opposing army to such an extent that the very thought of them is having the effect of almost scaring their enemies out of fighting at all. The result of this is that it will in all probability considerably shorten the "war" and push forward the date at which Europeans will again find China a safe place to live in, and business resume its normal functions. Therefore their conduct is directly in the favour of the masses, as I believe the desire of most foreigners and business men is to see the war ended, one way or the other.

Regarding the question of prestige. As these men, so I am given to understand, are behaving themselves in an orderly manner, such as is only to be expected from well trained and courageous soldiers, such as they unquestionably are, I don't think they will do half so much to lower white prestige as the poor devils who from force of circumstances are obliged to sell newspapers on the streets, for example. I think the exiled Russians' lot is sufficiently unfortunate, for us, usually ignorant of the real circumstances, to add to it by criticizing adversely their, in some cases pitiful, attempts to preserve themselves with as much of the dignity of a white man as possible. I, as an Englishman, was always taught not to kick a man when he is down, but many in Shanghai, I regret to say, have apparently not learnt this.

Thanking you for your time and space,

I am, etc.,
ENGLISHMAN.

Shanghai, Feb. 2, 1925.

"CULTURED PEARLS"

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—I notice in your to-day's "Notes and Comments" that you say "a few years ago they could be purchased at a comparatively few dollars a string, etc." This is a mistake, a string of culture pearls to-day would cost at least a few hundred dollars (even the shortest string and smallest pearls) and they were never cheaper before.

Mr. Mikimoto started many years ago to create pearls by culture, but they were then "half pearls." It is quite recently that the process succeeded in producing them perfectly round, so that no one could tell them from natural.

The few dollars you mention would probably purchase "artificial pearls" which you can still buy at a low price, and these are often sold as "culture" pearls.

I am, etc.,
TOYO MURAKAMI.

Shanghai, Jan. 29, 1925.

TITTULA THOMASIENSIS

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR,—As I was on my way to office this morning, a little bird of bright blue and yellow colouring flashed across my path; although I could not see it distinctly, for my eye-sight is never at its best at this early hour of the morning, the sight awakened very pleasant memories of a visit I paid my Aunt Pauline at Cromer during the winter of 1896. My aunt, who was well-known throughout the East Coast for her acts of philanthropy, used to hang a half cocoanut on the beech-tree outside the morning-room window on Candlemas Eve each year; and I remember that of all the various kinds of entertainment provided at my aunt's crowded receptions, watching the tomits in the cocoanut was always the most popular.

I wonder if you, Sir, or one of your readers could tell me if the bird I saw could possibly have been a tomtit, or if the *"Tittula Thomasiensis"* is not indigenous to these Eastern climes.

Thanking you for your generous space,

I am, etc.,
NATURE-LOVER.

Shanghai, Jan. 30, 1925.

PALMAM QUI MERUIT

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—May I add my voice to that of "Amused: Not Nasty" on the subject of the medals which may (but I trust will not) be issued to the Shanghai volunteers in recognition of their courage and endurance during the recent scrapping round Shanghai? To people living out of Shanghai, especially to those who have been in places where the tide of civil war has ebbed and flowed more or less regularly for years, the report seems simply grotesque, and I should myself have thought that there were too many men in the S.V.C. who had experience of real warfare for such an idea to be entertained for a single minute. Perhaps, however, it emanated from one of those who did not join up in the war and failed to persuade the Powers-that-be to issue to those who remained comfortably in China throughout the whole war a medal to commemorate the fact. (I suppose you remember the preposterous suggestion to this effect which was made in 1919).

I am, etc.,
XOX.

Up Country, Jan. 29, 1925.

A PHRASE IN DISPUTE

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The word "seldom" can be either an adjective or an adverb.

Used as an adjective it means "infrequent," "rare."

Used as an adverb it means "not frequently," "rarely."

The use of "seldom" as an adjective is more or less obsolete.

The expression "exceptionally seldom seen" is redundant, though correct, as seldom is being used adverbially. As an adjective it could not be used preceding a verb.

In writing the phrase, a comma would go well between exceptionally and seldom, and when speaking it, a pause between the same two words would help some, as our Cousins say.

I am, etc.,
BONEHEAD.

Shanghai, Jan. 30, 1925.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Replying to "Grammar's" letter of a few days ago, I wish to say that, being one of those few people who are content to await the result of an argument with patience, I have never previously written a letter for insertion in the correspondence column of a paper.

In addition I might say that I have no intention of doing so again.

I believe therefore, that I should be correct in stating that I exceptionally seldom engage in this pastime.

I am, etc.,
WISDOM.

Shanghai. Feb. 2, 1925.

THE CONDITION OF SHANGHAI

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Your paper announces that there is a probability of Shanghai being classified, from a health point of view, as a third-rate port. What is the exact significance of this classification. I do not know, but if it causes attention to be drawn to various conditions here, it will be all for the good.

When I arrived here during the summer, I was asked on all hands whether I was not surprised at finding the city so modern and so western in appearance. Actually, I did not faint with astonishment upon first seeing the Hongkong Bank; what really surprised me was something quite different.

The amazing things here are: first, that squalid and obviously unhealthy Chinese houses, emitting the foulest odours, should be allowed right in the midst of all business and of most residential quarters; secondly, that beggars, in all states of physical decomposition and of the vilest appearance, should be allowed to importune and brush up against citizens in crowded streets; thirdly, that gutters and small streams should be allowed to flow with unimaginable filth; fourthly, that boats and buildings (notoriously the Bank of China) should be allowed to belch forth volumes of black smoke and fumes without restriction.

Such is the state of affairs in the main streets of the city. What is the condition of the byeways and the river front can be estimated; and the estimate does not give confidence in the sanitary conditions.

I am, etc.,
X.

Shanghai, Feb. 4, 1925.

THE DEFENCE OF CHINKIANG

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In reference to the account of the Battle of Chinkiang, contained in your issue of the 24th instant, I shall esteem it a favour if you will publish for the information of your readers the following facts.

During the progress of the so-called battle there were three foreign men-of-war in the port, namely, the "Cockchafer", the "Pigeon" and the "Fushimi." The "Cockchafer" landed a party on the British Concession, which party is still in billets ashore.

During the rush of Chinese refugees into the Concession on January 17 adequate provision was made for the safety of the families of foeriners—some 40 foreign missionary refugees were accommodated in foreign dwellings on the Concession.

I am, etc.,
U. J. KELLY.

Chinkiang, Jan. 27, 1925.

***This matter was corrected in the paper a few days after the initial mistake—Ed.

THE SINEWS OF WAR

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—It has occurred to me that, when foreign property or persons are outraged in China, besides the usual financial indemnity being demanded, the responsible parties should be forced to hand over a number of rifles. This would be most distasteful to a truculent tuchun. In fact, he would probably prefer to pay a considerably larger fine.

I am, etc.,
T.

Nanking, Jan. 29, 1925.

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CHINA'S ONLY SALVATION?

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The present turmoil and internecine Wars in China call to the Heavens above to bear witness to the distress of this great country and its people.

For several years past politicians and newspapers, foreign and Chinese alike, have put forward many and varied prescriptions for the cure of China's ills.

The various military leaders have been fully discussed, guesses have been made as to the one "strong one" amongst them, who might be the Saviour, the outstanding figure in Chinese leadership. Some of those we thought were out to win have proved mighty failures and as current events prove, the solution seems as far off as ever. The fact that individual readers of your esteemed paper have been allowed from time to time to expose their views on China's ills in the columns of same, has encouraged me to write the following:

Let me first of all say that I do not profess to be an expert, but 20 years spent amongst this delightful people have taught me many things. First and foremost that the Chinese are a very clannish people and this fact, which I believe is undisputed, prompts me to offer the following solution:

Having for years past watched the endeavours of the Peking Government to rule this vast heterogeneous country, endeavours which have ended in complete and tragic failure, I think the time has come for suggesting to the Chinese a Federal Government on the lines of the Swiss Confederation.

Let it, however, at once be understood, that such a confederation would never be successful, if in the selection of the Provincial Governors certain considerations are left out.

Ever since the establishment of the Republic, Provincial Governors have been appointed partly by Peking and partly by the luck of the sword. Only in few, if any, cases, have the Governors been natives of the province they were appointed to rule over. In their train they brought the usual gang of officials who like themselves also were "strangers in a strange land."

The population they ruled over were used to this procedure from the days of the Manchus. They looked upon their masters as a heavenly sent evil. They find, however, one difference between the Manchu and the Republican days. Under the Manchu dynasty they were seldom subjected to looting and the wars which now invariably seem to accompany each change of Governorship.

If China is to be put on her feet as a Federal Republic the only way is to let the Provincial Chambers of Commerce and the Farmers Unions, which represent, I maintain, the bulk of China's population select or elect their own Governors.

To illustrate my idea I would for argument's sake suggest, that the Governor of Kiangsu should be a native of Kiangsu and be elected by the Chambers of Commerce and the gentry (farmers) of Kiangsu. The nominee should be a man with considerable "face," a man for example like Mr. Chang Chien, who, being already wealthy, would not seek office for pecuniary reasons. Chêkiang might elect the well-known Ningpo man Mr. Yu Ya-ching. Other provinces should act likewise.

Sir Robert Hotung has for some time past with laudable zeal attempted to bring about a round table conference with the military leaders. It ended, as we supposed, in complete failure. During the last few months it ought to have been made quite clear to all observers that, even were the military leaders willing to meet at Sir Robert's Table, no good results would come out of that, as we have now seen, that the military leaders cannot even trust their own subordinate Generals, let alone trusting one another. I would ask Sir Robert, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Shanghai Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Chairmen of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce, to call a conference at Shanghai to be attended by the Chairmen of the various foreign and Chinese leading Chambers of Commerce of the various provinces, to be held at the Town Hall of Shanghai kindly lent for that purpose by the generous City Fathers, for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of my plan, which is to let commercial men or farmers be elected Provincial Governors with plenary powers to elect all minor officials, who should also be natives of the province in which they work. Thus superseding the militarists who at present are either forced upon them by Peking or force themselves upon a Province.

My idea may be sound, you will say, but will the militarists agree? Yes, that is of course a question of some magnitude but one which can be solved. The Chinese Chambers of Commerce and the Farmers Unions to my mind highly underrate their strength. I am sure they could force the issue. Easier here than perhaps in most countries. If the merchants and farmers backed by the civilian population, high and low, intellectuals and otherwise, would put their backs against the wall and boycott the militarists by refusing to pay taxes, refusing to grant them transport, by buying over the arms and other equipment of the soldiers and sending the soldiers to their native provinces, I think they would win in no time. The Chinese are a clannish people. A native of Kiangsu will not be ruled by a native of Shantung. But give them one of their own "nationals" and preferably a man who already in commerce and in farming has gained "face" and they will rest contented and happy and will be easy to rule.

If this scheme could be worked out China would be composed of a number of autonomous states, the Governors of same electing a President, who would be merely a figurehead. There would be no need for the time being for a Cabinet or Parliament in Peking.

A Cabinet would entail the danger of jealousy.

For example, a Minister of the Interior would not be required, as all officials would be appointed by the Governor of the Province. Objections to this may arise when dealing with the questions of railways. I recognize that a centralized system of control would be preferable in cases where the same railway passes through various provinces. Still this drawback is insignificant compared with the present chaos caused by the continual changing of railway officials. In years to come when the bulk of China's population becomes educated, then the time may come for universal suffrage on occidental lines and a representative Parliament formed which will then elect a real and not a bogus Cabinet. At present a Minister of Foreign Affairs would suffice. And he would simply be the paid head of China's Diplomatic and Consular Service.

If the scheme can be carried out then it would be well if the foreign Powers would make good their promise of a surtax on all dutiable imports as promised at the Washington Conference, the Provincial Governors in their turn abolishing likin and other illegal taxes. The foreign Powers should also recognize the fact that the provinces have a moral and a legal right to a certain quota of the Customs Revenue and the Salt Revenue as well after those two revenues have met foreign obligations. Needless to say there should be no provincial interference with the revenues in question but representatives of the Governor should have access to the books.

The Provincial Governors through the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Peking should assure the foreign Powers of their strict adherence to the Treaties signed with Foreign Powers.

Disputes of a local nature between Chinese and forcigners should be settled in the Province concerned.

Provincial Governors should be responsible for the protection of the foreigners.

China's Army and Navy

This is purely a matter for the Chinese. As China is never likely to be attacked she ought to reduce her Army and Navy to the strength required for keeping down "tufei" and "pirates." This is, needless to say, only a secondary question compared with that of putting her house in order.

If the Chinese people themselves are unable to demobilize the military vandals now in power, they would be entitled to ask for foreign help which should be forthcoming. Then the foreigners would intervene by request and therefore as friends and be treated as such. But would the foreign Powers agree? An affirmative answer would be China's salvation and at the same time it would nail to the wall that damnable lie now freely circulated throughout this country "that the foreign Powers are delighted to see continual chaos in China."

A Federal Government in China would do away with much of the present foreign jealousy and friction and intrigues at Peking. China would then in fact, in reality and in truth become open to all and friendly rivalry would supersede the present game which is a damnation to Foreigners and Chinese alike.

I am, etc.,
X. Y.

Up Country, Jan. 24, 1925.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—It seems to me that X.Y. in to-day's issue has put forward a plan that has more possibilities of being a successful way out of the present mixture of anarchy and tyranny than any other that has been mentioned. Whether or not the federation need be as loose as he suggests seems to me to be something that would work itself out. The two important points are placing able and public-spirited men in power and giving an opportunity for each province to develop as far as its resources will permit.

In spite of all the pessimists have to say, there is no lack of honest, hard-working, patriotic men, capable of giving the country a progressive and ordered government. Under the present system nobody is trying to put such men in office, nor is there any incentive for unselfish men to try to enter politics. In the present way the game is played an honest man can accomplish little and has no chance of gaining the only reward he craves and ought to have—the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens. The chambers of commerce and the country gentry of a province are in a position to pick out good men and support them after they have been elected. Of course the system would be an oligarchy not a democracy, but it would be far nearer to a democracy than any system based on a theoretical but impossible universal suffrage. It would be a government by the wealthy, but in general their interests would be the interests of the people as a whole. Suffrage based on an educational test could come by peaceful changes and not by war.

Many Chinese have long seen the need of getting away from the theoretically centralized form of government. The country is too big and the people too differing to permit development as a whole. Shansi has shown what can be done where a province has an able governor and is let alone. Friendly rivalry in progress would be the result of utilizing local patriotism, which is a characteristic of the Chinese as it is of every other civilized race. Variation and selection is as much the law of progress in politics as it is in biology.

The plan, likewise, seems to be one that could be put in operation in the near future if the merchants and gentry wanted to do it. Chambers of commerce already function in politics in times of trouble. They have confined their efforts to being robbed of as little as possible instead of supporting constructive measures that aim to bring about new conditions. As X. Y. says, they have very much underestimated their powers. Nor is it certain that they would not find supporters among the warlords. Many of those gentlemen seem to be caught in a vicious circle. If they have power, then they have enemies, then they have to recruit more troops, then they have to have more money, the getting of which produces more enemies. If a definite possible programme was strongly supported by the chambers of commerce of the larger cities, there would be generals to support it. The tuchuns who didn't, would surely have a harder time to be convincing when they talk of their love for the people.

Why doesn't the Shanghai Chinese Chamber of Commerce make the beginning? The time is ripe.

I am, etc.,
J. R. N.

Shanghai, Feb. 4, 1925.

CINEMA PRICES

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I hope that you will permit me to set forth in your valuable paper one of the latest "outrages on civilization" that is occurring in this civilized city of Shanghai.

At a certain theatre which is well known to Shanghai theatre "fans," the feature this week is "Girl Shy" with Harold Lloyd starring. Instead of having the regular programme which consists of, one Pathé News picture, the main feature, an "Out of the Inkwell" comedy, and a "Hair" cartoon. For this regular programme one pays 60 cents for the stalls and one dollar for the dress circle. Now this theatre is putting on the main feature which is "Girl Shy" and only a Pathé news picture, and for this it is necessary to pay 90 cents for the stalls and one dollar and a half for the dress circle!

Being an American I can give the conditions under which this picture was shown in America. At one place the price was 25 cents (gold) including a news picture. At another place it was shown for 10 cents (gold). At neither place was the price advanced for this picture.

Thanking you for the precious space used in your paper and hoping that something may be done to remedy this condition,

I am, etc.,
HURLEY EARLS.

Shanghai, Jan. 30, 1925.

***This is referred to in Notes & Comments.—Ed.

SOVIET BUSINESS METHODS

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—A few remarks on my unsuccessful attempts to secure a passport visa from the Soviet authorities, to enable me to enter Vladivostok with a view to opening up trade connexions at that port, may not be without interest to your readers.

Encouraged by a report which appeared in the press some time ago, that Vladivostok was to be made a free port as from January 1 and also with a view to renewing commercial relations with several firms in that port with whom I did a fair business in pre-war days, I applied at the Soviet Consulate in Shanghai on November 5 last, for the necessary passport visa.

I was supplied with a form containing 28 questions, which I was requested to fill in quintiplicate and to attach to each form a recent photo; in addition I had to supply an extract of particulars from my own passport in duplicate, also to fill in a form, in duplicate, giving reasons for wanting to go to Russia and if for purposes of trade, to state fully the nature of such. These forms (nine in all) have to be made out in Russian. To one unacquainted with the language, the name of a translator is supplied and the fee charged for getting up the papers is $5. The papers were then handed to the Soviet Consul and a fee of $4.40 was charged. I was then informed that the papers would be forwarded to the Russian Ambassador at Peking and a reply might be expected in about three weeks. Beteween November 27 and December 6 I called at the Soviet Consulate here almost daily and on each occasion was informed that no reply had yet been received from Peking. At the end of that time, on the advice of the Vice-Consul, I went to Peking.

In Peking I called at the Soviet Consulate and after repeated delays, was informed that my applications had been duly received and submitted to the Soviet Trade Commissioner, who had informed the Consul that there wasn't sufficient demand in Vladivostok for the goods which I represent to induce me to go there and he much regretted that he could not, therefore, give me a visa.

I next went to Harbin and had an interview with the Secretary of the "Dalgostorg" (the Russian Government Trade Bureau) who informed me that it was quite unnecessary for me to go to Vladivostok as he could give me any information required.

I supplied him with full particulars of the goods which I represent which he promised to forward to Vladivostok, but though I waited there four weeks no answer, so far as I am aware, was received.

On my return to Shanghai a few days ago, I received an official letter, dated January 12 (old style), from the Soviet Consulate here informing me that a passport visa to Russia was refused, but giving no reason for the refusal.

Fear of private enterprise and individual efficiency would appear to be their sole reason for preventing British merchants from entering these markets, and this makes it all the more easy for one to appreciate Soviet mentality in connexion with their new economic policy, which invites British capital on the one hand, and prohibits British supervision on the other.

It would be interesting to know if a trade agreement between Great Britain and the Soviet Government exists, in fact, or is it merely another scrap of paper which has been made to satisfy those of our politicians who have admired the Soviets from afar, and who have been willingly misled by their obviously fallacious trade reports?

I am, etc.,
BRITISH MERCHANT.

Shanghai, Feb. 3, 1925.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Nearly every day we read in the newspapers some article or statement relative to this internationally famous figure and he is invariably referred to as "Doctor."

Will you or some of your readers kindly tell me of what he is Doctor? I have been for several years under the impression, (derived from what I consider a reliable authority) that he is in fact not a "Doctor" of anything, but has assumed this distinctive appellation merely by virtue of once having been a dentist's assistant.

I should like to know whether he is really entitled to be called "Doctor" or whether this is merely another self-assumed distinction like the "Generalissimo," "Commander-in-Chief" and a few others I have heard promiscuously applied.

I am, etc.,
CURIOUS.

Shanghai, Feb. 5, 1925.

***Strictly speaking, Dr. Sun is not entitled to the "Dr." He is a Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery (Hongkong). It is a courtesy title such as is accorded to many men who have taken a medical course successfully though they are not actually M.D.'s—Ed.

LORD RIDDELL'S defence of "business jargon" will not convince Dean Inge. "It should be pointed out," says his lordship, "that business people have no time for writing literary letters." It is not literary letters that are wanted, but a clear and simple statement of the facts. It is much less trouble, as well as much better English, to say "I have received your letter" than "I beg to acknowledge your esteemed favour of the 29th ult." It is the business cliché that is "literary" in the derogatory sense, for it avoids the obvious and runs to debased ornament, like the cricket reporter who will use any word but "ball."

Municipal Gazette Nwes

Volunteer Corps.

Chinese Company.—Lieutenant K. T. Doo resigns his commission.

Mixed Court Report for December.

Capital Punishment.—Owing to the political situation the handing over to the Native Authorities of persons for execution for crimes committed in this Settlement is still in abeyance; there were at the end of the month 31 persons under sentence of death held at the Municipal Gaol.

Criminal Cases.—In 76 sessions the Court dealt with 7,951 cases. There were 21 persons, including 3 unrepresented foreigners, charged with trafficking in or being in possession of fire-arms, while 118 pistols, 1 rifle and 28,413 rounds of ammunition were ordered to be confiscated. 297 persons were charged under the opium and noxious drugs regulations.

ARE YOU ILL?
Are you ill with any disease due to impure blood such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Abscesses, Boils, Sores, Eruptions, Piles, Gland-lar Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, &c.? If so, don't delay, start taking Clarke's Blood Mixture to-day and the experience of thousands will show how it has permanently cured will show how it has permanently cured will show you yours. It cures by reason of its great blood purifying properties. Over 50 years success. Pleasant to take. Of all Chemists, &c.
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CURES ALL SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES

INTERPORT RUGBY FOOTBALL

The Shanghai XV's Win at Hankow: A Very Fast Game and Smart Play

(Specially Contributed)

The str. Loongwo, carrying the Shanghai Interport Rugby football team reached Hankow on Tuesday afternoon, January 27. At Kiukiang, Bathurst, the late Shanghai centre, joined the ship, and later played a very effective part in the game for Hankow. An hour's practice immediately on arrival, although taken in the rain, was very much appreciated after the confinement of the voyage.

The Hankow ground was hard, no new experience for the Shanghai players this season, but a little recent rain had softened the surface: arrangements for the game and spectators were excellent.

A Fast Start

Promptly at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, Holdsworth kicked off for Shanghai, and immediately the game was fast and furious. The speed during the first 10 minutes astonished both the goodly number of spectators and the referee, and indeed there was very little slackening off right to the final whistle. At the outset it was obvious that Shanghai's reputation had preceded them, and Hankow nullified combined efforts on their opponents' part by strong and efficient tackling. Shanghai's first passing movement was accompanied by shouts of "They're off," and MacLaren taking his pass beautifully broke clear at his own twenty-five. Running strongly the length of the field he was heavily brought down by Middleton, the Hankow back, who throughout played an excellent game. This early effort on MacLaren's part unfortunately brought on a double "stitch," and he played the rest of the game in considerable pain. For a time he played at back, with Vallis on the right wing, but ultimately the three-quarter line settled down to Bichard, Holdsworth, Bates, and MacLaren on the wing, not a usual line for Shanghai.

The First Points

After some ten minutes' play Bichard received near the centre and with a strong burst and a fine cut in, which completely beat the full-back, scored behind the posts, for Holdsworth to add the extra points.

Shanghai 5 points; Hankow nil.

Far from being dispirited, this reverse seemed to spur the Hankow team to extra efforts, but their plan of campaign, which was to crush utterly the lighter Shanghai forwards, never materialized, and in fact the Shanghai pack at this period were supplying their backs with the ball from five scrums out of six. In these circumstances another score could not much longer be delayed in spite of the close spotting and tackling of the Hankow defence. Bates this time burst through and after a tricky run passed to Mann, who had backed up splendidly, and the latter carried the ball over the line. The Shanghai players were delighted at the success of this forward, who has trained assiduously and played hard the whole season. The kick at goal was again successful.

Shanghai 10 points: Hankow nil.

Hankow Scores

Play continued with tremendous rapidity from end to end and side to side. A fine passing bout ended with MacLaren hemmed in near the corner flag. He kicked across, but the ball was fielded and punted back to midfield. A scrum was formed for an infringement, the ball taken from the Hankow pack by Hoste—the scrum half—and the Hankow backs found themselves under way, what time the Shanghai backs were still coming back from their previous unsuccessful attack. Vallis was naturally unable singly to cope with such a situation, and Bathurst strolled behind the posts with the ball. Parsons converted and half time followed at once:—

Shanghai 10 points; Hankow 5 points.

The second half opened at the same hot pace, and it was early on that Shanghai lost the services of Stewart. Dribbling hard his leg went awkwardly underneath as an opponent fell on the ball. What sterling work Stewart had been putting in was closely realized after his departure, the ball hardly if ever coming out on the Shanghai side of the scrum again. The remaining seven, however, continued to hold their own in the loose against a considerably heavier combination, and it was by means of one of their fast rushes that the ball was carried to the Hankow line. Here Bichard secured and when threatened passed to Evans, who promptly indulged in a few baffling side steps and successful sellings of the dummy and scored near the touch line. Holdsworth's kick was one of his spectacular efforts.

Shanghai 15 points: Hankow 5 points.

For some time now Hankow pressed and had the better of the game. Failing to get the ball from the scrum the Shanghai backs were nevertheless doing all possible to open out the game from the loose. The ball was flung about—perhaps not always wisely—in a manner that kept the spectators at a high pitch of excitement. It was from a loose pass that White snapped up the ball and with a splendid individual run scored between the posts. Parsons' kick unexpectedly failed.

Shanghai 15 points: Hankow 8 points.

Smart Play by Shanghai

From the restart Shanghai forwards went away strongly, and Hankow were penalized at their own twenty-five. Holdsworth's kick carried slightly outside the posts and a touchdown ensued. Again the forwards carried play to the Hankow line, and from a loose scrimmage King judiciously and cleverly worked the blind side to send Bichard over at the corner. It was a smart piece of play. A good attempt at converting just failed, and shortly afterwards the whistle blew "no-side."

Result: Shanghai 18 points: Hankow 8 points.

The Play Considered

A splendid game: as fast as could be, and delightfully clean. Three free kicks only, two of which were more or less accidental off-side. The Shanghai forwards were magnificent and to them goes first credit for the victory. Playing against a considerably heavier pack they more than held their own in the scrums. Certainly not in Shanghai this season have they packed as they did in this game, so low and tight that their opponents could make nothing of the scrums. In the loose and the line out they worked hard to a man, which makes it impossible to single individuals for praise. Well played Shanghai forwards, and well led Smith!

King at scrum half can look back with pride to his first interport match. Perhaps nervousness affected somewhat the accuracy and speed of his passes, but his defensive work was plucky and very sound. Holdsworth and Evans played like the stalwarts their reputation gives them. Bichard once again proved his scoring powers, and maybe would have scored again had he gone straight ahead instead of hesitating for a recipient to a pass. Bates mixed occasional faulty handling with delightful individual bursts which kept the opposition guessing, and his punting into touch was a boon to the hard worked forwards. MacLaren demonstrated in the first five minutes what a power he was, and in spite of excruciating pain throughout the game played soundly on the right wing. In particular his clean ground fielding of the ball stopped many an ugly rush. As a whole the Shanghai backs did not produce such brilliant combination as they have exhibited in Shanghai, partly owing perhaps to the unexpected formation they had to take up, and to the retarding of MacLaren as an attacking force. Vallis kicked well, and although a trifle slow in his fielding—he should go to meet a rolling ball and not wait for it—was safe. He too can recall his first Interport Match with justifiable gratification.

Hankow's Form

Hankow's tackling was hard and deadly. Middleton at full back was in great form. He saved his side many points by fine tackling, and his forwards much work by accurate and long punting. Bathurst was easily the best three-quarter and with more support would have been more dangerous. Hoste at scrum half was a thorn in the Shanghai side, and his spoiling work was excellent. Parr, Sullivan and Fleury, all late of Shanghai, played well, but we believe that Hankow should hand the palm to Crawford, who certainly was magnificent.

Another old Shanghai player, Mr. Whittall, had charge of the match, and the thanks of both teams are his for an excellent ruling of the game.

The interport dinner was held at the Race Club and was the usual unqualified success, as also was the dance that followed. The Shanghai team are deeply indebted to their hosts and look forward to the time when Hankow may find it possible to send a XV to Shanghai. Their welcome is assured.

THE PAPER HUNT

Sunday's ladies' hunt in the country in the vicinity of the Hungjao Golf Club resulted as follow:

Mrs. Pringle on Wishing Well 1
Miss V. McBain on First Chance 2
Miss McCloskey on Komachi 3
Miss J. Wallace on Manager 4
Mrs. Burton on The Magpie 5
Miss McLachlan on King Tut 6

A hunt was held on Wednesday afternoon beginning at Mr. Beith's Bungalow on Hungjao Road. The result was:—

1. Mr. J. K. Brand on Silver Spur
2. Mr. C. E. Whitamore on Rollo
3. Mr. W. G. Johns on Torrid
4. Mr. H. M. Spence on William the Konk
5. L. R. Andrews on Plainfield;
6. K. M. Cumming on Sweet Pepper.

BOXING AT HOME

European Flyweight Championship Won by England

Glasgow, Jan. 31.

In a contest here to-night for the European flyweight championship, Clark (Britain) beat Montrueil (France) the holder, on points.—Reuter.

CHESS

A Dutch Indies Tournament

Shanghai chess enthusiasts will be interested to learn of the second international tournament arranged by the Dutch East Indian Chess Association for original two-movers and three-movers. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that chess must be very popular in the Dutch Indies, as the Association is able to issue quite a pretentious monthly journal, from which the rules of the tournament are copied, as follows:—

1. The problems must be received on or before the June 30 1925.
2. The Tourney is open for direct unconditional problems, which must present a position such as might be arrived at in *regular* play without pawn promotion.
3. Each composer may contribute not more than 3 twomovers and 2 threemovers.
4. The problems must be submitted on diagrams with *complete* solution and "motto" to H. Meyer, Salembaplein 7, Weltevreden, Java.
5. Incorrect problems may be corrected on or before June 30, 1925.
6. The jury will consist of Mr. H. Weenink Amsterdam and of one other dutch problem composer to be denoted by Mr. Weenink.
7. All contributors will receive the jury's report and a copy of the chess magazine in which their problems will be published.

Foreign composers will receive the jury's award in the English language.

8. Prizes:—*Threemovers*: First prize f 60.; second prize f 40.; third prize f 25. *Twomovers*:—First prize f 40.; second prize f 25. third prize f 15. Further problems may be honourably mentioned at the jury's discretion.
9. All problems entered and found correct become the property of the Dutch East Indian Chess Association.
10. Unforeseen cases will be finally decided by the jury.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The Club v. The Navy

The match on Saturday between a team picked from the ships in port and the Shanghai R. F. C. resulted in a very patchy game—very good at some periods, not so good at others. At the fulltime whistle the position was—

Shanghai R.F.C. (5 points)	1 goal
The Navy (3 poinst).	1 try

The score about represents the run of a keen, hard-fought game, with the Club perhaps unlucky in not scoring again.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL AT HOME

London, Jan. 31.

Association Cup Competition, Second Round:—
Bristol City 0, Liverpool 1.
Sunderland 0, Everton 0.
Blackburn 0, Portsmouth 0.
Sheffield 3, The Wednesday 2.
Birmingham 1, Stockport 0.
Notts County 4, Norwich 0.
West Bromwich Albion 2, Preston North End 0.
Tottenham Hotspur 1, Bolton Wanderers 1.
Swansea 1, Aston Villa 3.
Newcastle 2, Leicester 2.
Nottingham Forest 0, West Ham United 2.
Barnsley 0, Bradford City 3.
Bradford 1, Blackpool 1.
Cardiff City 1, Fulham 0.
Southampton 1, Brighton 0.
Hull 3, Crystal Palace 2.

The League, First Division:—
Huddersfield Town 2, Leeds United 0.
Manchester City 0, Bury 0.

The League, Second Division:—
Coventry City 3, Stoke 1.
Middlesbrough 1, South Shields 1.

The League, Third Division:—

(Southern Section)

Aberdare 0, Brentford 0.*
Northampton 2, Exeter 1.
Plymouth 2, Gillingham 0.
Queen's Park 1, Reading 0.
Southend 0, Newport City 1.
Swindon 1, Millwall 0.
Watford 1, Bristol Rovers 0.

(Northern Section)

Barrow 2, Halifax Twon 1.
Chesterfield 0, Grimsby Town 0.*
Crewe 3, Durham City 0.
Lincoln City 1, Nelson 1.*
Rotherham 1, Hartlepools 2.
Tranmere 5, Ashington 4.
Walsall 0, Southport 0.
Wigan 2, Doncaster 2.
Wrexham 1, Rochdale 0.

Scottish League, First Division:—

Celtic 1, Hibernians 1.
Cowdenbeath 2, Dundee 0.
Falkirk 1, Raith Rovers 1.
Hamilton Academicals 1, Rangers 0.
Hearts 1, St. Johnstone 1.
Kilmarnock 0, Aberdeen 1.
Morton 0, Motherwell 0.
Partick Thistle 2, Ayr United 0.
Queen's Park 1, Airdrieonians 2.
St. Mirren 3, Third Lanard 1.

* Game abandoned owing to the ground being unfit.

	Pld.	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Agnst.	Pts.
Rangers	27	19	2	6	57	17	44
Airdrieonians	27	20	4	3	61	22	43
Hibernians	27	17	5	5	54	27	39
Celtic	27	11	9	7	52	32	29
Partick Thistle	27	10	9	8	44	41	28
St. Mirren	26	12	11	3	49	47	27
Third Lanark	28	10	11	7	40	48	27
Cowdenbeath	27	9	10	8	55	56	26
Hamilton Academicals	27	12	13	2	38	40	26
St. Johnstone	27	9	11	7	41	52	25
Greenock Morton	28	9	12	7	29	52	25
Motherwell	26	8	10	8	40	41	24
Raith Rovers	26	8	10	8	35	40	24
Aberdeen	28	8	12	8	35	43	24
Hearts	28	8	13	7	47	53	23
Dundee	27	8	12	7	36	44	23
Falkirk	27	8	13	6	35	37	22
Kilmarnock	27	8	13	6	37	51	22
Queen's Park	26	7	13	6	32	52	20
Ayr United	27	7	15	5	32	54	19

—Reuter.

M.C.C. IN TASMANIA

Visitors Win by Large Margin

Hobart, Jan. 30.

The weather was glorious to-day, the first day of the second match between the M.C.C. and Tasmania. There were 4,000 spectators. The wicket was tricky at the outset but towards the end it became easy.

Tasmania made 89 runs in their first innings, Tate taking 6 wickets for 26, Kilner 1 for 22 and Freeman 2 for 31. Tasmania were all out in 99 minutes.

The M.C.C. scored 217 runs for 2 wickets before stumps were drawn. Sandham contributed 92 in just under two hours, hitting seven fours in a delightful innings. Sutcliffe made 89 not out.

Jan. 31.

The weather to-day was fine and there were 3,000 spectators. The wicket was good.

The M.C.C. carried their overnight score of 217 runs for 2 wickets to 449, of which Sutcliffe contributed 188 including 23 fours in an attractive and sound innings. He was in for a little under four hours. Hendren scored 50.

Tasmania, who had made 89 in their first innings yesterday, scored 101 for 2 wickets before stumps were drawn to-day.

Feb. 2.

To-day the M. C. C. won by an innings and 136 runs.

The weather was fine, and the wicket good.

Tasmania who had scored 101 for two wickets when stumps were drawn on Saturday, carried their score today to 224, Myers contributing 40 and Bennett 38.

Howell took 6 wickets for 96 runs and Freeman 3 for 52.

Scores:—

M. C. C.	1st innings	449
Tasmania	1st innings	89
	2nd innings	224

—Reuter.

CRICKET IN S. AFRICA

Mr. Joel's XI. Defeat Eastern Province

Grahamstown, Jan. 29.

Mr. Joel's team of English cricketers beat the Eastern Province here to-day by 8 wickets.

The Eastern Province team were all dismissed in their first innings for 62, Geary taking 4 wickets for 30, and Kennedy 6 for 27. In their first innings Mr. Joel's team made 212, Munro taking 7 wickets for 81. The Eastern Province made 165 in their second inings, and Mr. Joel's team 19 for 2.—Reuter.

East London, Cape Colony, Feb. 2.

A two-day match between Mr. Joel's team and the Border Districts ended to-day in a draw.

The Border Districts made 200 runs in their first innings, Parker taking 5 wickets for 39.

Mr. Joel's team scored 311 for 4 and declared their innnings closed. MacBryan contributed 114.

The Border Districts in their second innings had made 107 for 5 when stumps were drawn. Jameson took 3 wickets for 30.—Reuter.

NEW WORLD ATHLETIC RECORDS

Boston, Feb. 1.

Willie Plank beat the Italian, Frigerio, in a three-thousand metres walking race here to-day in 12 min. 52-⅘ sec., thus beating his own world's record for indoor walking for this distance by 1-⅕ sec.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Feb. 3.

Paavo Nurmi, the famous Finnish athlete, won to-day a 2-¼ mile race in Madison Square Garden in 10 min, 19 sec. It is claimed that this is 14-2/5 sec. below the world's record.

Willie Plant to-day defeated the Italian athlete Frigerio in a 5000-metre walk in 22 min. 50⅗ sec., which is said to be a world record.

Willie Ritola, another Finnish athlete, won the 5,000-metre race in 14 min. 31 sec., covering 2½ miles in 11 min. 45⅗ sec., and 2¾ miles in 12 min. 56⅗ sec., all of which are claimed to be world records.

Feb. 4.

Paavo Nurmi, the famous Finnish athlete, broke Alfred Shrubb's record in a 4,000 yd. race to-day, covering the distance in 10 min. 55 sec. Reuter's American Service.

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HOME FOOTBALL

Association Cup: Third Round Draw

London, Feb. 2.

Association Football. — The League, First Division. — Burnley 3, Birmingham 2.

Second Division.—Port Vale 1, Bradford City 0.

The draw for the third round of the Football Association Cup Competition, to be played on February 21, is as follows:—

Southampton *v.* Bradford City.
Liverpool *v.* Birmingham.
Notts County *v.* Cardiff City.
West Bromwich Albion *v.* Aston Villa.
Sheffield United *v.* Sunderland or Everton.
Tottenham Hotspur or Bolton Wanderers *v.* Blackburn or Portsmouth.
Hull *v.* Newcastle or Leicester.
West Ham United *v.* Bradford City or Blackpool.

Feb. 3.

In a replay in the first round of the Scottish Association Football Cup competition at Firhill Park, Glasgow, to-day, the result was as follows:—

Boness, 2; Helensburgh, 0.

Oxford's Handsome Victory

Feb. 4.

At Chelsea, in the Inter-Varsity Association football match, Oxford beat Cambridge by 4 goals to 1. The match was postponed from December owing to fog. It was played to-day in glorious spring-like weather, in the presence of 7,000 spectators.

The Oxford forwards and half-backs were much superior to their opponents. After 15 minutes, Holmes (Oxford) scored a goal with a low shot. Seven minutes later Chadder (Oxford) scored and then Holmes, meeting a perfect centre, headed a third goal. De Koven, the Cambridge right back, injured his knee and was transferred to forward. Four minutes from the interval, Holmes headed across for Chadder to score. Oxford at half-time was leading by 4 goals to 0.

After the interval Cambridge improved, but could not score until four minutes before the close when Capel-Slaughter netted after a smart run. Thus Oxford won by 4 goals to 1.

Other Results

The League, First Division.—Nottingham Forest 0, Liverpool 1.

Re-plays in the second round of the Football Association Cup Competition:—

Everton 2, Sunderland 1; Portsmouth 0, Blackburn Rovers 0, after extra time; Blackpool 2, Bradford 1; Bolton Wanderers 0, Tottenham Hotspur 1.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

Sheffield Shield Retained by Victoria

Sydney, Jan. 29.

Victoria beat New South Wales today by 7 wickets, thus retaining the Sheffield Shield.

New South Wales scored 614 in their first innings, Rock contributing 235 and Kippax 212 not out.

Victoria in their first innings made 502, Liddicut scoring 132 and Willis 100.

In their second innings New South Wales were all out for 152 and then Victoria hit off the required 265 runs with a loss of 3 wickets, Woodfull contributing 119 not out.—Reuter.

Melbourne, Feb. 3.

New South Wales beat Victoria by 3 wickets in a return match concluded here to-day. The scores were:—

VICTORIA	
1st Innings	295
2nd Innings	155
NEW SOUTH WALES	
1st Innings	278
2nd Innings	173
for 7 wickets.	

Ponsford made 80 in Victoria's first innings. For New South Wales, Collins scored 70 in the first innings and Bardsley 65. The latter in his second innings made 59.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN LAWN TENNIS

Sydney, Jan. 31.

In the finals of the Australasian Lawn Tennis Championships, played to-day, Anderson beat Patterson, 11/9, 2/6, 6/2, 6/3, and Patterson and O'Hara Wood beat Anderson and Kalms, 6/4, 9/7, 7/5.—Reuter.

THE RACING SEASON AT TSINGTAO

More Ponies to Be Attracted to This Year's Meetings: Keen Paperhunters

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Tsingtao, Jan. 31.

The Tsingtao International Recreation Club is laying plans for a big season, which is expected to surpass the last one when the restoration of pony-racing here after a lapse of several years was attended by unusual interest, manifested by both the foreign and native populations.

Indicative of the increased interest local sportsmen are showing in the sport, a new stable known as the United Kingdom Stable has been formed which comprises the leading British horsemen of Tsingtao.

The local club has decided on a plan of full co-operation with the other racing clubs of China and shortly Mr. N. A. Andersen, secretary, will start on a tour of the centres where racing is firmly established, visiting the clubs in Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking. The securing of more ponies to be entered in the local races and arrangements so as to avoid conflicting dates will chiefly occupy Mr. Andersen's attention.

The off-season is notable for the inauguration of paper-hunting here and the sport is weekly gaining more momentum. Paper hunts are held every Sunday morning, sharply at eleven, and have been attracting practically all the foreign community. Between 15 and 20 riders usually take part and there has been some fine sport as a consequence. Mr. G. C. F. Russell is the master, Messrs. Masters, Alston, Jernigan and Chang the stewards, while Mr. Robson is the secretary.

To-morrow the hunt will occupy a new course, starting from the junction of Laoshan and Litsun roads, the course previously having been laid in the neighbourhood of Long Beach.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Week-end Results:—

INTERNATIONAL CUP

China	4	Germany	1

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Police F. C.	2	H. M. Navy	1
S. F. C. 2nd	3	S. R. C. 2nd	1

THE WORLD'S SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sydney, Jan. 30.

Paddon having relinquished the world's sculling championship, W. McDevitt and Major Goodsell will contest the title on the Clarence River on March 17, and have put up £200 a side.—Reuter.

NEXT OLYMPIC GAMES IN AMSTERDAM

The Hague, Feb. 4.

A Bill shortly will be introduced in the States-General providing for a grant of a minimum of 1,000,000 florins, spread over a period of four years, from 1925 to 1928, in four equal instalments, for expenses in connexion with the Olympic Games which are to be held in Amsterdam in 1928.—Reuter.

THE Irish Free State Liquor Bill was amended in the Senate in favour of the complete closing of public-houses on St. Patrick's Day and in favour of structural alterations in public-houses so as to prevent drink from being sold on the same premises as groceries and other commodities. These amendments had previously been rejected by the Lower House but the Senate insisted upon their retention. As a result the Liquor Bill will be "held up" for 270 days, after which time the Bill will pass automatically into law in the form in which it originally left the Dail for the Senate. The Free State Constitution, however, provides that if 75,000 signatures of electors can be obtained for a petition a referendum of the whole electorate must be taken, and the pioneers, a Roman Catholic temperance society, declare that they will set the necessary machinery in motion without delay.

LAW REPORTS

ENORMOUS OPIUM COMBINE AT WORK

Revelations Following a Police Raid in Shanghai: Charges by the Police and Mr. N. E. B. Ezra: Shop Assistants Offer $25,000 Bail

The existence of an organization for the importation and distribution of opium on an enormous scale was disclosed by counsel in proceedings resumed at the Mixed Court last Friday in connexion with the Canton Road opium case.

The matter first came to light on application being made to the court on behalf of Mr. N. E. B. Ezra and a Georgian subject named Dadanashvilli, who wished to make a claim against a number of Chinese in respect of a cargo of opium, valued at $1,250,000, said to have been shipped from Constantinople to Vladivostok but diverted to Shanghai. A search warrant was applied for and, upon Mr. M. O. Springfield, Assistant Commissioner, and other police officers, visiting No. 51 Canton Road, they discovered 315 lb. of opium, some of it concealed under a floor, and more in a secret room hidden behind a panel. A large number of documents were seized, one of them giving quotations for cocaine and morphia. It was in respect of this cargo of opium that Messrs. Ezra and Dadanashvilli filed their claim for $1,250,000.

The matter was adjourned in order that the police might make a further search of the premises, the officers being instructed to open the safe by force if necessary.

The proceedings came before Mr. Martin (British Assessor) and Magistrate Kuan, but application was made for an adjournment to the Spanish Assessor's court, it being alleged that Spanish interests were involved, Mr. Ezra claiming to be a Spanish *protégé*.

Seven Accused

There are seven accused, the manager of the shop and six members of the staff, and they are charged with being concerned together in selling opium, aiding and abetting in the sale of opium, keeping opium in their possession with intent to sell it, aiding and abetting in keeping opium, importing opium from a foreign country, and aiding and abetting in importing.

Mr. S. Young (of Messrs. Hansons) appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police; Mr. F. J. Schuhl and Dr. G. Sellet appeared for the manager of the shop and five of the accused; Mr. K. E. Newman and Mr. L. K. Kentwell appeared for the seventh accused, M. du Pac de Marsoulies appeared for Mr. Ezra, and Mr. A. N. Fishman for Mr. Dadanashvilli.

Chief Inspector Wheeler handed in a letter received from the Spanish Consul asking that the case be set down for hearing before his Assessor, there being Spanish interests involved in the case. The Inspector also produced a letter from the acting Consul-General for Great Britain, stating that unless Mr. Ezra could produce proof to the satisfaction of the court that he has legally lost his British nationality and has acquired some other nationality, he would be glad if the Registrar would arrange to have the matter dealt with by the court on this basis.

Spanish Consul's Claim

M. du Pac asked that, as the civil and criminal cases were closely connected, and as there were Spanish interests involved, the case should be set for hearing by the Spanish Assessor. It could easily be proved that Mr. Ezra was not a British subject, but this was a matter for the Consul himself and not for that court.

Mr. Martin (the British Assessor)—Which Consul?

M. du Pac—The British Consul and the Spanish Consul together. It is not for this court to decide whether Mr. Ezra is a British subject or a Spanish *protégé*.

The Assessor—The charges against the accused have been brought by the police and are before me now as Assessor for the day. Spanish interests are not involved in that. It is a matter which concerns the Settlement, and I shall proceed to hear the case myself. There is another charge against the first accused, that he was concerned with two other Chinese in disposing of opium belonging to the complainants (Messrs. Ezra and Dadanashvilli). That is a different charge altogether.

M. du Pac—We were first to lay a complaint about this property being stolen, and as it is our property, and as my client is a Spanish *protégé*, therefore there are Spanish interests involved. It would be complicating matters to have the first case heard by one Assessor and the second by another. The two are so closely connected that the matter would become very complicated, without any benefit to the public. The Spanish Consul absolutely and plainly says there are Spanish interests involved in the criminal case as well as the civil one, and I therefore ask that both cases be referred to the Spanish Assessor.

Police Only Concerned

Mr. Schuhl, in asking the Court to take jurisdiction, said the matter was simply one between the police and the Assessor for the day. There might be Spanish interests in the other case, but that did not affect the position.

Mr. Young argued that there were no Spanish interests in this case. It was brought by the police, who were concerned only with the people who disposed of the opium and how it came into their possession. He did not admit, however, that there were Spanish interests in the other case brought by Mr. Ezra.

M. du Pac—The charge was made through the Spanish Consul and the warrant was issued by him. The property is Spanish property and according to the ordinary practice of the court the matter should go before the Spanish Assessor.

The Assessor repeated that the two cases were on a different basis. Messrs. Ezra and Dadanashavilli had complained that the opium was stolen, and they laid a criminal charge against the accused. The police found that the opium was in the Settlement for the purpose of sale, and as the sale of opium was illegal they very properly charged these people, in addition to the private charge, with aiding and abetting in the importation and sale of opium. It was an offence against the public, and the court did not see how there was any special interest whatever. The court therefore as constituted would proceed with the charges brought against the seven accused by the police.

Important Documents Discovered

Mr. Young then informed the court that the police made another search of the permises and found there a supply of opium and a large number of documents. The documents were regarded as being of the utmost importance and they were being printed in order to assist the court. They afforded complete evidence of the existence of an organization for the importation and distribution of opium on an enormous scale, and the matter was considered to be a far larger one than when the case was first before the court. In the circumstances, he would ask for a remand for 10 days, as it would take some time to get the documents printed.

Mr. Schuhl asked that the men he represented be granted bail, they already having been in custody for 10 days.

Mr. Newman made a similar application on behalf of his client, and M. du Pac opposed.

Mr. Young also strongly opposed the granting of bail. He said there were a very large number of documents, in various languages, which had to be translated, and the police had not had time adequately to read through all of them and prepare their case for trial. The matter was one of the very greatest public importance. The opium dealings in this case were on such a very large scale that it was not unreasonable to ask for a 10 days' remand.

The Court remanded the accused until February 9 and agreed that the case be set for special hearing.

Dr. Sellet, returning to the subject of bail, said his clients were prepared to put up a very substantial amount which would satisfy everybody of their intention to appear at the trial. He suggested $25,000.

Mr. Young intimated that he proposed to call evidence as to the peculiar construction of the premises where the opium was found, and if the Court desired the police would be very glad to give them an opportunity of inspecting the place.

Mr. N. E. B. Ezra's Nationality

The Assessor—With regard to this other charge, we have a letter from the British Consul-General stating that Mr. Ezra is a natural born British subject, and unless he provides proof to the satisfaction of the Court that he has legally lost British nationality and acquired some other, he asks that the trial proceed on the basis that he is a British subject. I propose to ask Mr. Ezra whether he is prepared to....

M. du Pac—Mr. Ezra is not prepared to answer any question at all. He has received orders from the Spanish Consul not to answer any questions. He has been ordered by the Consul of Spain not to answer any questions.

The Assessor—He has been ordered by the Spanish Consul not to answer any questions which this court may put with regard to the question of nationality?

M. du Pac—I think so—as far as this Court is competent, of course.

The Assessor—What do you mean, "as far as this Court is competent"?

M. du Pac—I mean that the question of nationality is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

The Assessor—You said just now that Mr. Ezra had been ordered by the Spanish Consul not to answer any questions.

M. du Pac—I understand that is so.

The Assessor—Have you got it in writing?

M. du Pac—I have not.

The Assessor—Were these verbal instructions?

M. du Pac—I think so.

The Assessor—Who did the instructions come from, Mr. du Pac?

M. du Pac—I heard that Mr. Ezra had been told.

The Assessor—Mr. Ezra, have you been told by the Spanish Consul-General to refuse to answer any questions with regard to your nationality?

Mr. Ezra—I have not received any advice yet.

The Assessor—Did you tell Mr. du Pac you had received such instructions?

Mr. Ezra—No.

The Assessor—Well, Mr. du Pac, either Mr. Ezra is telling what is not true, or you appear to have been misleading the court.

M. du Pac—May be I did not quite understand what he said.

The Assessor—All I can say is, I would advise you to get your instructions from your client in writing.

M. du Pac—Yes, your honour. But I submit the question of nationality is not within the jurisdiction of this court.

The Assessor—If the Spanish Consul had ordered Mr. Ezra not to answer any questions I should not proceed to ask him any. As instructions have not been received, I will ask him one.

M. du Pac—I will tell the Spanish Consul....

A British-born Subject

The Assessor—I request you to sit down..... Mr. Ezra, at the first hearing of this case you said:

> "I am a Spanish *protégé*. I was born in India. My ancestors were Spanish centuries ago. My father and grandfather were born in Bagdad. I do not know where my great-grandfather was born. I came to Shanghai in 1898. I became a Spanish *protégé* last year. I was registered as a British protected person in 1898. I do not think I was ever registered as a British subject, because when I became of age I was not naturalized."

Inquiries at the registry office of the British Consulate-General show that you were registered as a British subject when you became of age in 1900 and that you were registered up to the year 1911 as a British subject. From that time onwards you have not been so registered. Where were you registered after 1911?

Mr. Ezra—Your Honour, I have been advised not to discuss the question of my nationality here. I refer all my questions to my Consul.

The Assessor—I will ask you one question, Mr. Ezra. You may answer it or not, just as you please.

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Have you any proof that you have ever renounced your British nationality?

Mr. Ezra—Yes, I have. I made my petition before Sir Everard Fraser in 1911. In that year I was struck off the register entirely.

Where is the Proof?

The Assessor—I will put another question which you may answer or not, at your discretion. Are you prepared to produce proof of what you say?

Mr. Ezra—It is in the archives of the British Consulate. I attended before Sir Everard Fraser with Mr. Hughes, and my name was struck off the list. I made a declaration that I was not naturalized when of age and that I wished to follow my father's nationality.

The Assessor—Can you produce that?

Mr. Ezra—It is in the archives. It is not in my possession.

The Assessor—Can you give the date?

Mr. Ezra—October, 1911.

The Assessor—I shall want you to produce proof. The Court will deal with this case unless you produce satisfactory evidence.

M. du Pac—But he is a Spanish *protégé*.

The Assessor—He has produced no proof that he is not a British subject, and we have his own statement that he was born in India.

M. du Pac—Isn't this a matter for the British Consul and the Spanish Consul to deal with?

The Assessor—We might have disposed of it if there had been any proof in your hands.

M. du Pac—As far as this Court is concerned, it seems to me that the Spanish Consul is the best judge of that.

The Assessor—There is nothing in the Spanish Consul's letter regarding the nationality of Mr. Ezra. All I asked you was whether you had any proof, and you did not know, and that finishes the matter. We will remand this further charge against the accused until the same date.

M. du Pac—Before the Spanish Assessor?

The Assessor—No. Before myself.

M. du Pac—All right. I will tell the Spanish Consul.

CABARET SUED BY DANCER

A Claim for $1,000

The case of Mrs. A. A. Lempert (Mme. Victoria Tomina, the dancer) *v.* the Carlton Ld., came up for hearing at H. M. Supreme Court on Monday before Mr. G. W. King (acting-Judge) yesterday. Plaintiff's claim was for the sum of $1,000, and such other damages as the Court might assess.

Mr. S. H. Lewis appeared for plaintiff: defendant company was not represented.

Mr. E. G. Abbey proved service of the summons on the defendant company at 2 Canton Road, the offices of the secretary.

Mr. Lewis said he understood Messrs. Hansons usually represented the Carlton, Ld., but he had received no communication from them whatsoever. He did not wish to take undue advantage of their non-appearance, but in the interests of his client he felt he must ask that the case be continued that day.

His Honour asked whether there did not remain the question of an injunction.

Mr. Lewis said there was an injunction in operation restraining the Carlton Ld., from preventing Mme. Tomina entering and using the hall that they had hired out to her. That injunction had been obeyed.

His Honour held that in view of damages being asked, the best course was to order pleadings. He also ordered a further continuance of the injunction for one month.

S. L. Weng, a British subject, appeared in H. M. Police Court on Tuesday in response to a summons for an obstruction. Police evidence was to the effect that the defendant on December 30 left his car standing in Nanking Road at an unauthorized stand on the south side opposite Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., between 11.20 and 12 o'clock. Defendant said that he went into Lane, Crawford's to do some shopping but he was unexpectedly detained. He was not aware that where he had left his car was an unauthorized place. A fine of $3 was imposed.

DOWN AND OUT AND "FED UP"

Defendant's Excuse in Window-breaking Case: Friends to Help Him Out

Charged with maliciously damaging a glass window, the property of Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., N. Cleghorn appeared before Mr. G. W. King in H. M. Police Court on Tuesday.

An Indian watchman said that defendant admitted the offence and told him that he had no home and no food. Questioned by the Magistrate defendant said that he had been out of employment since December 5.

Police-Sergent Diprose said that defendant told him he was prompted to commit the offence in order to call the attention of the public to his case.

Defendant was remanded. On Wednesday Mr. J. S. Hay, of A. S. Watson & Co., stated that he had been called to the scene of this unfortunate affair. He spoke to defendant who admitted having broken the window. Cleghorn said that he had been walking the town and was down and out and "fed up." At the previous hearing the value of the damage had been estimated at Tls. 330, but the firm now thought the window could be replaced for Tls. 240.

Mr. A. L. Dickson, solicitor to the British Cigarette Co., by whom defendant was formerly employed, said that the company had no complaint against him. They were, prepared to make good the damage. Defendant's conduct while in their employ had been perfectly good and there was no ill will on the part of the firm. He was rather hot tempered and did not like being spoken to. There had been no ill treatment to him on the part of the company. He had been dismissed because he was unsuitable for the particular work for which he was engaged.

Defendant said that he would pay up the damages as soon as he could obtain work.

The Magistrate, summing up, said that if defendant had a grievance he could not demonstrate it on other people's property. If everybody demonstrated in this manner he did not know what we should come to. He would enter a conviction and order that the damages should be paid, in default of which he would have to inflict imprisonment for three months. Defendant was fortunate in having friends to help him out and settle the affair.

THE RIGHT TO SHENKO

Important Mixed Court Decision Regarding Land on Soochow Creek

Judgment was given in the Mixed Court last Friday in an action between Messrs. Atkinson & Dallas, Ld., and the Shun Kyi Kung Sze against Tsang Yong-yong, heard by Mr. Whitamore and Magistrate Loh. This case was a dispute concerning a small piece of land situated between Jessfield Road and the Soochow Creek which the plaintiffs, Messrs. Atkinson & Dallas, allege was originally a public jetty and for which defendant has no proper title deed. Defendant recently built a house upon this land and the plaintiffs in the interest of the owner of a plot of land on the other side of the road, registered in the Italian Consulate, claim that he had no right to do so as the particular land in question was shenko land.

Mr. S. H. Lewis of Messrs. Teesdale, Newman and McDonald appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. H. D. Rodger for defendant.

Judgment was delivered as follows:—

In this case the plaintiffs allege that the defendant erected a bamboo fence across a public jetty situated adjacent to the road opposite Italian Consular Lot 150, intending to build thereon. The land in question was formerly a public jetty contiguous to plaintiff's land, therefore, they contend that the defendant is not entitled to occupy it. An application for an injunction was made restraining the defendant from building.

The defendant alleges, on his part, that the land in question is an accretion to public land and belongs to the Chinese Government. He bought the land in January of the 12th year of the Chinese Republic and holds a deed issued by the Board of Finance and is accordingly entitled to the use of the land.

The Court holds that in certain circumstances a deed issued by the Board of Finance might be considered to be a certificate of ownership, but it is necessary in the first place to consider whether the defendant had any right to apply to the Board of Finance for such a deed. The Board of Finance is not concerned with the right of an applicant to apply for a deed, but only with the payment of the due fees in connexion with the application.

Son-Land and Mother-Land

From inspection of the plans and of the land in question the Court is satisfied that the plaintiffs alone had the right to apply for of the jetty land. From the evidence of two officials from the Municipal Land Office and of the Tipao, as well as from other authorities it is clear that the only person entitled to shenko is the owner of Italian Consular Lot 150, the adjacent property, in accordance with the custom of the "incorporation of the son-land with the mother-land." Any other person wishing to apply for shenko must first obtain the consent of the adjacent owner or at least show that he has refused to exercise his right. Where the land is contiguous to a Municipal Road, the Council's approval must first be obtained. The Tipao has the right and the duty to refuse to seal deeds held by a person who has no right to shenko.

In a decision of the Supreme Court (No. 1070) it is held that accretions should in the first place be given as compensation to collapsed land and in another case (No. 563) it is held that adjacent owners should have the prior right to apply for shenko of unowned land.

Defendant Not the Owner

In this case the defendant is neither the owner of the land in question nor of the adjacent property. He therefore had no right to apply privily for a deed from the Board of Finance without first obtaining the approval of the plaintiffs herein or of the Shanghai Municipal Council. Likewise the defendant certainly had no right to continue building in defiance of the injunction of the Court.

The Court therefore holds that the plaintiffs are entitled to priority in applying for shenko of the land in dispute, but before the Shanghai Municipal Council approves shenko or building it should be considered public property.

All buildings put up by defendant on the land are to be removed within one month of the date of this judgment.

Court costs should be borne by defendant.

CLAIMS ON THE RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET

A Further Demand to Have Case Referred from Mixed Court to Vladivostok

Before Mr. J. E. Jacobs (American Assessor), Mr. Byvanck (Dutch Assessor) and Mr. Li Sieu-mei (Chinese Magistrate) at the Mixed Court on Saturday morning an application was made by Dr. O. Fischer for a re-hearing in the case of Harry Rosenberg (trading as the Rosenberg China Co.) and the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, the Court, in its original decision, having decided to take jurisdiction in the matter.

Plaintiff (who was represented by Mr. F. J. Schuhl and Mr. C. P. Holcomb) claimed from the defendants Tls. 212,279.04, M. $44,496.62 and M. $86,000, alleged to have been the damages suffered as a result of defendants' breach of contract and moneys paid to the defendants.

Dr. Fischer dealt with the position of the Court on two points, namely, the right of the Mixed Court to assume jurisdiction over Russian cases, and the right of the Court in this special case. With regard to the former it was generally agreed that the Court did not deal with political questions and steps were now being taken by the Soviet authorities and the Chinese Government to deal with the question in Peking. Counsel would limit his contentions to the question of the Court's right in this special case. The Court in deciding the case originally had applied the regulations relating to civil procedure of the Chinese Republic published in the 10th year of the Republic. Counsel pointed out that Article 14 of these regulations stipulated that the court which had jurisdiction was the court of the residence of the defendant unless otherwise provided for in these regulations. Article 16 said that the head office of juristic persons is determined by where it is situated. The Vladivostok Court, therefore, should be a competent court to deal with this action in view of the fact that defendants' head office was in that city. Articles 20 and 24 provided that in actions concerning contracts there is concurrent jurisdiction of two courts, *i.e.*, the court of residence of the defendant and the court of the performance of the contract; therefore, as this contract provided for the performance of the contract in Shanghai and Vladivostok, both courts could have concurrent jurisdiction. The same regulations provided that in cases of concurrent jurisdiction, the plaintiff had the right to choose before which court he was going to take action. In the case before the court the plaintiff had in his agreement with defendants expressly agreed to refer the case to the courts at Vladivostok, and had therefore exercised the option which was granted to him under these regulations and was estopped now from coming into the Mixed Court and saying that his agreement or consent to place the action before the Vladivostok Court was not enforcible.

Against Public Policy

Continuing, Dr. Fischer submitted that the Assessor, in his original decision, had stated that such an agreement to refer the case to the Vladivostok Court was against public policy and the sovereign rights of the Republic of China, and therefore could not be enforced. That, contended counsel, would be right in cases of exclusive jurisdiction and in actions relating to property which would have to be brought before the court where the property was situated. The Court furthermore would be right if the parties had not chosen the Vladivostok Court, but in this case the two courts were competent and as the Chinese law allowed the parties to choose either place, plaintiff, in agreeing to the Vladivostok court, could not now invoke the question of public policy or Chinese sovereign rights. The case, said counsel, involved a large sum of money and there was no court to which defendants could appeal from the decision of the Mixed Court. Dr. Fischer realized how hard it was to admit to have erred, but the only right defendants had was to have the decision reheard by the same Assessor who originally heard the case and delivered the decision.

British and American Precedents

Mr. Schuhl submitted that the Court's original decision was quite in order and emphasized that it would lead to an impossible situation if Russian firms in Shanghai could not be sued in the Mixed Court if they had offices in Russia. Furthermore, submitted Mr. Schuhl, the majority of British and American decisions declared that such stipulations beforehand of the jurisdiction of the Court could not be enforced.

Dr. Fischer replied and the Court reserved its decision.

CARGO BOATS CAPSIZE IN HARBOUR

Important Action in Mixed Court Concerning Two Sets of Regulations

An important shipping case has been before the Mixed Court during the past few weeks. The plaintiffs were local insurance companies and the Indo-China S. N. Co. Ld. (represented by Messrs. Hansons), and the action was brought in the Mixed Court on December 16 last against the Russian Volunteer Fleet and the str. Erivan, (represented by Messrs. Musso & Fischer). It arose out of the capsizing of two cargo boats and consequent loss of their cargo on April 24., 1924.

The companies concerned in the case were the Canton Insurance Office, Ld., the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. Ld., Reinsurance Company Rossia of Copenhagen, the North British & Mercantile Insurance Co. Ld., the New Zealand Insurance Co. Ld., the Western Assurance Co., Ld.

Loss of Cargo and Boats

The petition of the plaintiffs was in the following terms:

1. The plaintiffs are respectively insurance companies carrying on business at Shanghai and elsewhere, and the defendants are subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

2. At or about 6.30 p.m. on April 22, 1924, two cargo boats containing rice and ironware were lying alongside the str. Yusang which was moored at the Old Ningpo Wharf preparatory to loading their cargo on the str. Yusang for shipment to Tientsin.

3. At that time the str. Erivan was coming up the river Huangpu with a view to berthing at the said Old Ningpo Wharf ahead of the str. Yusang.

4. There was a strong ebb-tide running at the time and the wind was about S. S. E. to S. E., a moderate breeze.

5. The str. Erivan kept a mid-channel course until about abreast of the Wayside Wharf when she took a sharp sheer to starboard bringing the tide on her port bow, and coming on, ran into and capsized the said two cargo boats and their cargo was lost.

6. The said collision and the damages and losses consequent thereon were occasioned by the negligent and improper navigation of those on board the str. Erivan.

7. The plaintiffs are interested to the extent of Tls. 4,252 in respect of certain policies of marine insurance on the cargo in the said two cargo boats, which amount the plaintiffs have paid.

The plaintiffs claim:—(1) Payment of the said sum of Tls. 4,252 and interest; (2) Costs; (3) Further or other relief.

A Defence of Negligence

To this petition the following answer was filed:—

1. Par. 1. is admitted with the exception that the defendants are subject to the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court which is denied.

2. Par. 2 and 3 are admitted.

3. In answer to Pars. 4 and 7 the defendants aver that they have no knowledge of the allegations contained therein and leave the plaintiffs to prove the same.

4. Pars. 5 and 6 are denied.

5. In further answer to the plaintiffs' petition the defendants aver that the said collision was caused by the negligence of those on board the two cargo boats.

Wherefor the defendants pray this Honourable Court to dismiss this action with costs.

Subsequent to the filing of the petition it was found that a certain amount of cargo had been salved, reducing the loss to Tls. 3,473,74, and after hearing of the case, the plaintiffs were awarded this amount together with the costs of the action.

An application for a rehearing of the case having been made, this was set down for Friday, January 30., but the Assessor stated that the application could not be considered unless the defendants put up security in an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment, and seven days were granted by the Assessor in which to find the required security.

The Different Regulations

In the course of their defence the shipowners alleged that the accident was the direct result of an infringement of the Harbour Regulations by the lightermen as to the number of craft permitted to lie alongside a vessel during loading operations, and this brought out the fact that there are two sets of Regulations governing this. Clause 15 of the Harbour Regulations reads:—

"Lighters and other boats are not to be made fast to vessels in such a manner or in such numbers as to interfere with the free passage of other boats or vessels through the Harbour."

whilst Clause 18 of Instructions for the Customs River Police reads as follows:—

"No more than six native open boats laden with ordinary cargo, or more than four laden with cotton, or more than three foreign cargo boats shall lie in tier abreast alongside any vessel, and as soon as boats are discharged they must remove from the tier."

During the hearing of the case it was stated that, as a rule, the practice of the Harbour authorities is to adhere to Clause 18 of the

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River Police Regulations above quoted, and evidence having been brought forward that not more than six cargo boats "with ordinary cargo" were abreast alongside the str. Yusang at the time of the accident, the defendants' contention was over-ruled and the award made in the plaintiffs' favour as above stated.

STORY OF $24,000 OPIUM THEFT

Two Alleged Robbers Acquitted: Small Shopkeeper's Motor-car

An armed robbery, in which opium to the value of $24,000 was alleged to have been stolen, led to the appearance of a chauffeur and his employer, an exchange shop proprietor, at the Mixed Court on Thursday. Accused, the former of whom gave himself up, were charged with participating in the robbery.

Complainant, Li-sao, at a previous hearing stated that, on the night of the robbery, a friend had deposited 14 cases on his premises which he asked witness to keep in safe custody. Witness agreed, but did not know what the boxes contained. They had not been in his possession many minutes before an armed gang entered the house, terrorized the inmates and took away all the boxes except three in a motor-car. The motor car, which was numbered 3979, was traced and found to be the property of the second accused and was driven by the chauffeur in the dock. His employer was not to be found. The remaining boxes, which were empty, were also on investigation found to have originally contained opium.

The first defendant claimed that on the night of January 12 he was employed by the wife of second accused to drive the car to the Far Eastern Hotel.

A boy employed at the hotel stated that defendant had been present that night but he could not swear that defendant was present at the time when the robbery was supposed to have occurred.

Went to a Wedding

The second accused, cross-examined by Mr. Maitland (prosecuting solicitor), said that he was in Ningpo at the time of the robbery, leaving Shanghai on January 10. He did not return until after the New Year. Defendant said that the reason he spent the New Year away from home was because he was invited to attend a wedding in Ningpo. He produced a written invitation and also several formal receipts of acknowledgements of presents sent.

Mr. Maitland.—Did you take part in a funeral which took place on January 13 in the French Concession.—No, I was in Ningpo at the time.

How is it that your wife and family did not know where you were?—My wife and family are not accustomed to inquire about my business outside.

Don't you find it safer for them not know where you are?—I have a proper business.

Yes, but you never go there.—I sometimes go there every day. It depends how my business calls me.

Two other witnesses corroborated the statement that accused had left Shanghai on January 10. They did not know of his taking part in any funeral.

First defendant, when asked why there were marks of boxes in the car, said that some time previous his master had ordered him to bring the property of a friend from the corner of Warren Road, when it was reported that there was looting west of Shanghai.

The Assessor (Mr. Jacobs) said that the Court would have to dismiss the case as there was insufficient evidence upon which to convict either of the two accused; the evidence was purely circumstantial. He would require defendants to sign a personal bond.

MIXED COURT NOTES

Looters Charged: a Veteran of 38 Wars

A number of soldiers have been ordered to be handed over to the Chinese authorities for being either in possession of loot or arms and ammunition in the Settlement. One man, who had $38 sewed in his puttees, told the Court that he had been given $1 for each war in which he had taken part.

In one case in which the Police asked for an order regarding the disposal of some loot, the Bench ordered that it be kept in the Police Station to be claimed. If not claimed within a month it is to be sold and the proceeds must be handed over to the refugee relief fund. In another case it was said that several of the men had admitted that they had orders to loot from Marshal Chi's officers. Some said the things were obtained lawfully and others said that the goods were picked up along the railway track.

Five ex-soldiers and a coolie, charged with robbery and with being in possession of a pistol and some ammunition, were ordered to be handed over to the French Police for trial on charges which were to be preferred against them in the French Mixed Court. The Court ordered that they were to be handed back after their trial there so that they could be tried in the Mixed Court for possessing arms and ammunition in the Settlement.

Four soldiers were given five years' imprisonment each, and ordered to be expelled, for committing an armed robbery in Tongshan Road early yesterday morning after intimidating the inmates with an axe.

Two more soldiers were charged with being found with pistols in their possession. One was cautioned and ordered to be handed over to the military authorities under Gen. Chang, the other was given two months imprisonment and ordered to be expelled. His pistol was confiscated.

THIRTY-eight soldiers who were remanded for coming into the Settlement in possession of arms and ammunition or loot were brought before Messrs. Kuan and Jacobs at the Mixed Court on Tuesday and the Court made an order that they were to be handed over to Gen. Chang Chung-chang, as well as all the property found in their possession. The Court added a rider that the order was made on the basis of a police inspector's statement that Gen. Chang's secretary had promised that the men would be repatriated and the stolen property would be returned to its owner if possible. The charge against the men was that they had in their possession certain property, i.e., $566 in notes, $616 silver, 36 20-cent pieces, 39 articles of jewellery, 52 pieces of cloth, valued at $1446 in all, alleged to have been looted from outside the Settlement.

Two applications were made before Messrs. Loh and Bucknell for the disposal of certain property taken in the Settlement from Fengtien soldiers, including a member of Gen. Chang Chung-chang's bodyguard. The property was believed to have been abandoned loot of Marshal Chi's defeated soldiers. In both cases the Court made orders that the articles should be kept in the Police Station for a month, after which, if not claimed, they would be confiscated. The booty included a lady's satin squirrel jacket, a lady's silk jacket, silk shirt, a silk long gown, a silk lambskin-lined long gown, a cotton long gown, two cotton jackets, three pairs of cotton pants, a satin jacket, and a number of pieces of cloth.

A petty officer in the U.S.S. Barker appeared before Mr. Lurton, at the U.S. Commissioner's Court on Monday on charges of being drunk and disorderly and tearing a policeman's uniform. Defendant admitted drinking whiskey, brandy and an assortment of other liquors at a bar near the Apollo Theatre. If, he said, the police charged him with having broken the law in this manner, he would not deny it. In view of the fact that he did not remember anything at all of what happened on leaving the bar, he would plead guilty. Mr. Lurton, commenting on the evils of drink, the quality and quantity of which was uncertain, fined accused G.$5 and costs. He was also ordered to pay $30 compensation for the damaged coat.

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PERSONAL NOTES

MISS M. Ingram Clarke returned to Shanghai in the str. Katori Maru.

COL. J. Barnard, Assistant Military Attaché at the U. S. Legation, Peking, has been in Shanghai for a few days.

COL. Manton Davis, counsel and attorney-at-law for the Radio Corporation of America, is stopping for a few days in Shanghai.

As the result of Mr. R. C. Young's organ recital given in the Cathedral on Monday evening, a sum of $500 was raised towards the Cathedral War Memorial organ fund.

THE former Danish Minister at Peking, Mr. I. F. Oiesen, is paying a short visit to the Far East. While in Shanghai he is staying at the Palace Hotel.

DR. Lewis Chase, Professor of English Literature in the National University of Peking, is in Shanghai, visiting at St. John's University.

MR. T. Herlihy, manager of the Grand Hotel, Tsingtao, following a trip to Manila and Hongkong, is making a brief visit to Shanghai stopping at the Astor House.

DR. H. G. Barrie, resident medical officer, Kuling Sanatorium, has arrived from Hongkong and is staying at the Astor House for several days before leaving for Kuling.

MR. Cedric Gurney Ripley, of Messrs. Palmer & Turner, who returned from Home on Saturday, has been elected from an Associate to a Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

IN addition to those already noted as leaving Shanghai on the P. & O. S. Morea may be mentioned Mr. L. Tweedie Stodart, Mr. R. J. MacNicol and Mr. J. Coulthart, the last mentioned of whom is returning to Hongkong.

THE marriage of Miss Una Norah Denegri, of Shanghai, to Mr. John Newton, formerly of the U.S. Consular Service in Kobe, took place on January 3 in Vancouver. Mr. and Mrs. Newton will make their home in Kobe, where Mr. Newton is now in business.

THE U. S. Consulate-General wishes to secure information as to the whereabouts and welfare of Mr. W. A. Childress, reported to have been a hotel proprietor in Shanghai. Any particulars concerning his present whereabouts will be greatly appreciated.

THE Swedish Association of China held its annual meeting at the Palace Hotel on January 30 when the following committee were elected:—President, Mr. W. Von Normann; Vice-President, Mr. H. Stromvall; hon. secretary, Mr. Karl Bryhn; hon. treasurer, Mr. S. Y. Curen; Mr. C. S. Toll.

MR. W. N. C. Allen left Shanghai on the P. & O. S. Morea, accompanied by Mr. John Sharp, son of Mr. James Sharp, an executive director of the Bradford Dyers' Association. Mr. Allen is proceeding on a business trip to Hongkong and will return to Shanghai about the end of the month.

THE P. & O. S. Morea which left on Monday had on board an exceptionally large number of well-known Shanghai residents. Among those leaving for Home were Major Hilton-Johnson, the Commissioner-General, and Mrs. Hilton-Johnson, the Ven. Archdeacon Moule who is retiring after 37 years of work at Trinity College, Ningpo, and Mrs. Moule; Miss Symons, daughter of the Very Rev. Dean Symons; Mrs. H. H. Brisow (Mrs. Symons' sister) and two children, Mrs. C. J. Scott and family, Mrs. O. L. Ilbert and Miss Ilbert, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. W. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. McDonald, Comdr. A. R. Farquhar, R. N., Baroness Wittengkoff and Messrs. H. Maitland and V. Haimovitch, who are going to Hongkong to ride in the Hongkong Races.

MR. and Mrs. W. G. Cameron returned from Hankow by the Kungwo on the 1st. instant.

MR. F. L. Mayer, Second Secretary of the U. S. Legation, Peking, has been in Shanghai *en route* for Manila.

MRS. Roy Chapman Andrews is in Shanghai for a few days, staying with Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Cunningham.

MR. D. W. Edwards, secretary in the Peking Y. M. C. A., returned to China on the str. President Cleveland.

MR. A. D. LALCHAND, manager of Messrs. W. Assomull & Co., sailed by the str. Derfflinger on Home leave.

WE have forwarded $5 to the King's Daughters' Society Baby Home from Mesdames Stormes and Sherman, in memory of Cleo Packwood.

WE have forwarded $5 to the King's Daughters' Society Convalescent Home from Mr. John Ferguson, in memory of Cleo. Packwood.

THE following donation to Dr. Barnardo's Homes is acknowledged with thanks:—$5 in memory of Cleo Packwood from Mr. and Mrs. W. A. S.

THE Norwegian missionary, Mr. Anda, who was seized by bandits at Sichwan (Hupeh) early in November, has now been released, the "Central China Post" learns.

AMONG the passengers returning to Shanghai by the Korea Maru were Mr. C. S. Franklin, of the law firm of Chalaire & Franklin, and Mr. M. C. Cooke, of the Asia Banking Corporation.

MR. and Mrs. Edward P. Williams, Jr. have returned to Shanghai after a four-months' trip in the United States. Mr. Williams, who represents the Baldwin Locomotive Works, has gone on to Manila on a short business trip.

SEVERAL well-known Shanghai residents returned aboard the str. President Lincoln. Among these were Mr. Hugo Reiss, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Byrne, Mr. A. L. Anderson, Hon. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. Champkin.

REUTER'S Peking correspondent says that Senhor J. Batalha de Freitas, the Portuguese Minister at Peking, has been appointed Minister at Brussels, and therefore Sir W. J. Oudendijk, the Netherlands Minister, will remain Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking.

THE Commander of the local Fengtien and Russian troops, Gen. Chang Chung-chang, accompanied by Mr. S. K. Chen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, and his councillors, Messrs. Soo Ting-chang and Chi Chang-tsen, paid official visits to the foreign naval commanders in Shanghai and the Consular Body on Tuesday. Gen. Chang has appointed Mr. S. K. Chen his principal foreign adviser.

MR. R. G. MacDonald, who left on Tuesday with Mrs. MacDonald for Home by the P. & O. S. Morea, is to make a tour through Morocco while on leave. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald will leave the Morea at Egypt, and while Mrs. MacDonald proceeds Home by way of Italy, Mr. MacDonald will go through Morocco, starting from the Mediterreanan coast and concluding his trip at Casablanca. He expects to return to Shanghai about June.

MR. William G. Jackson, who drove the first train on the Shanghai-Woosung Railway, that was ever run in China, died on December 19, at Reydon, Southwold, aged 75. Until a few yeares ago he was engineer of the Southwold Railway. Chinese officialdom in the person of the Viceroy of Nanking, resented the introduction of the railway. It was purchased, and after being run for a year the line was taken up and with the equipment was transported to Formosa.

MR. N. E. Lurton, U. S. Commissioner, whose term of office has just expired, has been reappointed by Presidential mandate. His nomination was sent to Washington on November 14, and confirmed by Mr. Charles Evans Hughes, Secretary of State, on December 29. Yesterday at the U. S. Court Judge Milton D. Purdy administered the oath of allegiance and office.

GEN. Hsu Shu-tsong (Little Hsu) is reported by the vernacular press to have telegraphed to Peking reporting that the Chinese legations are sadly lacking in finances, hence he would recommend that the Ministers' regular annual salaries be paid forthwith in order to maintain China's prestige in the eyes of the world. Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, the Chief Executive, has piously ordered the Ministries of Finance and Communications to look into the matter.

MR. E. J. TAIT, one of the three managing directors of J. C. Williamson, Ld., the theatrical company, said at Sydney on December 14, that for some time negotiations had been going on with Sir Geo. Tallis, in London, to effect a combine with other great firms to ensure a free exchange of artists and productions between England, America, and Australia. Ultimately enormous sums of money will be involved in the proposed arrangements, but Mr. Tait pointed out that affairs of such magnitude take time to develop, and that playgoers in Australia will not be affected immediately. As a matter of fact, the first two enterprises will be launched in London and Edinburgh. Their importance consists in the fact that they point to the successful conclusion, so far, of the operations, which will be extended rapidly throughout the English-speaking world. The first productions will consist of "Lightnin' Jones," of the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, and of "Frasquita," the latest operetta by the composer of "The Merry Widow," in Edinburgh.

MODERN roads in Fatshan will soon be under construction as the Magistrate of the district has been ordered to hasten the carrying out of this undertaking. Plans have been drafted and notifications have been issued to merchants—whose premises are within the affected areas—to remove, soon after the old New Year, portions of their shop fronts in accordance with the plans of the Public Works Department so as to permit of the narrow roads being widened.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL'S LEG SAVED BY Zam-Buk

THE following remarkable account of Zam-Buk's triumph over a desperate poisoned wound is contained in a letter from C. B. Coates, Esq., Dept. of Customs, Rabaul, West Pacific, who writes:—"Whilst visiting outlying islands, I had the misfortune to severely cut my ankle on a submerged piece of coral. The injury gave great pain and swelled alarmingly, and medical treatment failed to heal the ghastly wound. I was so reconciled to the idea of having my foot taken off, that I decided to send in my resignation.

"One day happening to hear that the store had just received a supply of Zam-Buk, I sent over for a box. After two or three applications of this grand herbal balm I found that the discharge grew less and the angry-looking wound began to get a healthier colour. I persevered with the treatment and now, thanks solely to Zam-Buk, complete healing has resulted. I am cured of as ugly-looking a tropical sore as could be imagined."

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

GERMANY'S SECRET ARMAMENT

The Premier's Reply to French Accusations: No Violation of Versailles Treaty

Berlin, Jan. 30.

Dr. Luther, the German Premier, in a statement to-day to foreign journalists, replied to the accusations of M. Herriot, the French Premier.

Dr. Luther emphasized that even if slight infringements of the Treaty of Versailles had been discovered they were not of importance compared to the gigantic extent of Germany's actual disarmament. He declared that the German Government was determined to eliminate offences against disarmament. He pointed out the necessity of having a police force capable of dealing promptly and adequately with the Communist danger.

Dr. Luther declared that it was absurd to talk of Germany rattling her arms when she was without artillery, tanks and airmen and her fortresses had either been razed or were obsolete.

He doubted whether M. Herriot's idea of a world convention was practicable at present. He emphasized that international conciliation was impossible if one nation were branded as criminals to humanity and the world was not convinced of the falsehood of the charge.

Dr. Luther concluded by denying the possibility of a reactionary policy by the German Government and by promising that Germany would co-operate in the establishment of guarantees for the security and freedom of the nations.—Reuter.

If Germany Is in Earnest

London, Jan. 31.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the course of a speech at Birmingham alluded to the recent exchange of notes with Germany with regard to the occupation of Cologne. He said that he regretted the tone and temper of Dr. Luther's speech the previous night but declared: "I am not going to enter into a controversy conducted on that method. I am content to take note of one sentence in the speech, namely that the German Government is absolutely determined to make good any failures to disarm."

Mr. Chamberlain emphasized that the Allies on their side were determined scupulously to fulfil treaty obligations.

The Foreign Secretary referring to the forthcoming elections in Egypt expressed the hope that the Egyptian people would well weigh the consequences of the decisions they would be called upon to make and realise their importance, not only for their future relations with the British Government, who were resolved at all costs to defend the vital interests of the Empire, but for the maintenance of the enjoyment by Egypt herself of the liberties Britain had conferred upon her. He added that if the new Government would co-operate with the British Government in a spirit of comradeship and loyalty they would find Britain anxious to preserve their liberties and to promote their prosperity.—Reuter.

France Retaining Guarantees

Paris, Feb. 2.

M. Doumergue, the President, speaking at a banquet yesterday evening, pointed out that the engagements made by Germany guaranteeing French security, had not yet been kept. This had considerably increased France's expenses and burdens. He emphasized the warlike spirit prevailing in Germany, and said that so long as the country's security was not fully and thoroughly assured, so long would she be faced with a redoubtable menace of aggression, and France would be paralysed in all beneficent activities. She must therefore have security, concluded the President.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The Bulgarian Minister to the United States has resigned. — Reuter's American Service.

GENEVA'S HOPELESS CONFERENCE

Delegates Still Holding to Individual Opinions: Japanese Conciliation Unavailing

Geneva, Jan. 30.

A sub-committee of the Opium Conference has practically completed articles constituting a permanent board of control consisting of seven experts for the purpose of controlling opium traffic. The proposal of Viscount Cecil, the British delegate, has been adopted by which Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy, Germany and the United States shall appoint those experts. The Dutch and Swiss delegates agreed to this arrangement, reserving the right to refer the matter to their Governments.

Jan. 31.

At a meeting of the committee of 16 members of the First and Second Opium Conferences, the Dutch delegate declared that the Netherlands had carried out her obligations under the Hague Convention and could not extend restriction till the illicit opium traffic had been stemmed.

The text of the two draft protocols has been distributed and will be signed simultaneously by the First and Second Conventions. It is based on French and British suggestions contained in statements of policy relating to the use of prepared opium and dangerous drugs. These proposals meet the American views half way.

Mr. Porter, United States, did not speak to-day as expected but he asked for an adjournment till March 3 and to this the Committee agreed.

The Protocols

Feb . 1.

The following are the essentials of the two draft protocols distributed yesterday by the joint committee of the First and Second Opium Conferences and emanating from the British delegation:—

The first protocol reaffirms the obligation under Article VI of the Hague Convention of 1912 and undertakes effectively to prohibit the use of prepared opium in Far Eastern territories within 15 years from the effective execution by producing countries of the limit and control of the production and distribution of raw opium so that smuggling no longer constitutes a serious obstacle to carrying out the measures necessary to that end.

It provides for the appointment of a commission by the League of Nations, whose decision shall be final, for the purpose of deciding when the above-mentioned measures shall become effective. During the period preceding the commission's decision, every effort shall be made to reduce the consumption of prepared opium and to encourage the abandonment of the practice by existing smokers and to combat the illicit traffic.

It deals with measures for the effective prohibition of prepared opium at the end of 15 years and exempts persons using prepared opium under a medical certificate. It provides that, in the event of a serious recrudescence of opium smuggling, an appeal may be made to the Council of the League of Nations to appoint a commission for investigation and, should this commission report that the measures of producing countries to restrict production and to prevent illicit export have proved ineffective, any of the signatory States shall be entitled to denounce the protocol and a conference of States concerned shall immediately be held to consider their action.

The second protocol deals with dangerous drugs and their limitation and the control of the production and distribution of raw opium, in order to prevent opium smuggling, and further to take necessary measures to ensure the complete execution of the foregoing obligation within five years after which the commission appointed by the League of Nations shall decide whether the obligation has been completely executed.

Pessimism Still Prevalent

Feb. 2.

At the meeting of the sub-committee of the Opium Conference, to-day, the Indian Delegation submitted a detailed note, re-stating the Indian position. Mr. Clayton declared that India was the only producing country which had signed the Hague Convention and had carried it out. He stated that India had reduced her *per capita* consumption of opium to a figure as low as, or even lower than, European countries and well below the figure agreed upon by the Committee of Experts as permissible.

The discussion will be continued to-morrow.

Another sub-committee has approved the articles dealing with the establishment of a permanent Central Board for opium.

Tht Japanese delegate, Mr. Sugimura, has been active in his endeavours to conciliate the British and American views with reference to fixing the date on which effective prohibition of the use of prepared opium in Far Eastern territories shall commence and on which an agreement has not been reached. Mr. Sugimura yesterday had a long conference with Viscount Cecil and also with the French Delegation.

Apparently no side has so far shown a disposition to yield. Pessimism, therefore, again prevails. The outcome of to-morrow's committee meeting is uncertain, but it is believed that Mr. Porter, the American delegate, is anxious to save the fruits of the Second Opium Conference.

Feb. 3.

The committee of 16 members of the First and Second Opium Conferences to-day debated the outstanding point concerning the date from which the period of 15 years for the effective prohibition of the use of prepared opium shall run.

Viscount Cecil, the British delegate, and Mr. Porter, the American delegate, respectively upheld the British and American standpoints.

Mr. Sugimura, the Japanese delegate, made a conciliatory speech urging an agreement before the conference separates.

Mr. Clayton, the Indian delegate, showed the difficulties in carrying out the American plan.

No agreement has been reached. A sub-committee has been appointed to endeavour to reconcile the conflicting views.

The sub-committee dealing with the question of the restriction of the cultivation of the opium poppy to medical and scientific needs has been unable to reach an agreement and has decided to report to the Conference accordingly.

Gain for Britain

Feb. 4.

A committee of five, representing Great Britain, France, the United States, Japan and Finland, held an exhaustive private discussion this morning with the object of finding a formula to reconcile the divergence of views regarding the date from which the period of 15 years shall run in which the use of prepared opium shall be effectively prohibited. The committee was unable to reach an agreement and it is understood that it will report in that sense to the joint committee of 16 which was appointed from the two Conferences.

Mr. Sugimura, the Japanese delegate, tried hard to reconcile the Americans and the British, but all that Mr. Porter, the United States delegate, would do was to concede three years' grace, making the period 18 instead of 15 years. The British adhered to their position, and the Finnish delegate, M. Toivola, rallied to the British view.

There is now good reason to believe that all the neutral States which formerly supported the Americans are going over to the other side, thus placing the United States in a minority.—Reuter.

China Still the Main Culprit

London, Jan. 30.

Commenting on the Opium Conferences, "The Times" expresses the opinion that too much opium is still being exported to Hongkong, Macao, Japan and elsewhere. It says that the Government of the Straits Settlements could in the long run hardly lose from the point of view of revenue if it set its face more resolutely against the traffic, but until China puts her house in order it will be difficult to make much progress elsewhere.

As regards India "The Times" says that if every State made control as efficient as India did the evil would soon be reduced to manageable proportions.

In conclusion "The Times" says that the difficulty of the League of Nations is that international action is at present impossible in practice and that at least for the moment the British principle of local responsibility is the only sound one.—Reuter.

GRAECO-TURKISH DISPUTE

Patriarch Expelled by Turks: Refusal of Arbitration: Delicate Situation

London, Jan. 31,

A delicate Graeco-Turkish situation has been created by the action of the Turkish Government in, without warning, expelling the Greek Patriarch, ostensibly under the convention relating to the exchange of Turkish and Greek subjects.

Reuter's correspondent at Athens says that the country is incensed at the expulsion, which is described as a violation of the Lausanne Treaty. A protest is being made to all friendly countries.

An urgent meeting of the Cabinet yesterday evening necessitated the cancellation of a banquet which the Greek Government had arranged to give to the Diplomatic Corps.

It is learnt that the Greek Government has decided to protest strongly to the Turkish Government with regard to the expulsion of the Greek Patriarch and also proposes to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. —Reuter.

Archbishop's Appeal to Churches

Athens, Feb. 1.

The Archbishop of Athens has circulated a protest to the heads of all Christian churches in Europe and America against the expulsion of the Greek Patriarch by the Turkish Government.

The Greek Government has decided to retain with the colours the 1925 conscripts whose disbandment had previously been ordered.

A mass meeting organized to-day by the mayor passed a resolution urging the Government to take up a strong attitude on the question of the expulsion of the Greek Patriarch by the Turkish Government. Crowds subsequently paraded the streets, demanding revenge, and made a demonstration before the British Legation. Special police measures were taken in the vicinity of the Turkish Legation.—Reuter.

Turkey's Firm Stand

Constantinople, Feb. 2.

Interviewed regarding the Greek protest against the expulsion of the Greek Patriarch by the Turkish Government, the Commissar for Foreign Affairs said that the Government intended to expel everyone subject to the operation of the Convention relating to the exchange of Greek and Turkish subjects. The Greeks could still appoint a Patriarch who would be exempt from the stipulations of the Convention.

He added that Russia once had used the Patriarchate for political purposes and Turkey was not going to allow a repetition of this.—Reuter.

To Avoid Conflict

Paris, Feb. 2.

While admitting the legal basis of Turkey's standpoint, the newspapers emphasize that it is necessary to avoid the conflict between Greece and Turkey taking a more unfavourable turn. They point out that the conciliatory action on the part of the Allies, and especially M. Herriot's conversations with the Greek and Turkish Ministers, will tend to ameliorate the situation.

Feb. 3.

Jevad Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, to-day visited the Quai d'Orsay and discussed the Turco-Greek differences. He declared that Turkey would refuse any intervention by the Hague Tribunal as proposed by Greece.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 3.

In connexion with the Turco-Greek dispute owing to Turkey's expelling the Greek Patriarch from Constantinople, it is learned that the Allied Governments are closely watching the situation, but that no serious development is anticipated, provided that the matter is carefully handled.—Reuter.

Turkey's Sovereign Rights

Constantinople, Feb. 4.

Fethi Bey, the Premier, in a statement to the Assembly to-day in regard to the expulsion of the Greek Patriarch, declared that Turkey did not desire to disturb the peace, but she was unable to admit foreign intervention in an affair concerning her sovereign rights and prerogatives. "Should our independence be attacked," said the Turkish Premier, "we will have immediate recourse to measures to safeguard our rights and honour, and, if necessary, shall employ force of arms; but the Government, while maintaining a vigilant attitude, hopes that the nervousness of Greece will be replaced by calm."

A secret session of the Assembly followed Fethi Bey's speech, at which the Commissar for Foreign Affairs made a statement.—Reuter.

WASTE PLACES OF EMPIRE

British Colonial College of Agriculture and Good Work It Does

London, Jan. 29.

The Lord Mayor presided to-day at a luncheon at the Mansion House in connexion with an appeal for £100,000 in support of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. A distinguished company was present, including the High Commissioners and Agents-General.

Mr. L. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, proposing the toast of the College, described his duties as being those of a world-wide ministry of health. He said that the College since it opened in 1922 had fully justified itself. The Colonial Office recommended that opportunities and inducements should be given to our future agricultural officers to obtain a full course of training at the College, while the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation was sending all its officers to the College for initial training. He hoped that every tropical portion of the Empire eventually would have its own agricultural university.

Sir Arthur Shipley, the Chairman of the College, announced that among a number of gifts, the International Health Board of New York had offered £1,000 yearly for five years to establish a professorship of tropical sanitation and hygiene.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

George Washington Cable

Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 31.

The death is announced of the novelist George Washington Cable at the age of 80 years.—Reuter's American Service.

***George Washington Cable, who was born on October 12, 1844, at New Orleans, first became known in literature by sketches and stories of old French-American life in that city. The characteristics of the series, of which "Madame Delphine" is virtually a part, are neatness of touch, sympathetic description of people and places and a constant combination of gentle pathos with quiet humour. These shorter tales, which appeared in "Scribner's Monthly," were followed by the novels, "The Grandissimes," "Dr. Sevier" and the "Bonaventure." "Dr. Sevier" will probably be accounted Cable's masterpiece, its character of Narcisse combining nearly all the qualities which have given him his place in American literature as an artist and a social chronicler. In this, as in nearly all of his stories, he made much use of the soft French-English dialect of Louisiana.

Cable was the leader of a noteworthy literary movement of which the chief importance lay in the determination to portray local scenes, characters and historical episodes with accuracy instead of merely imaginative romanticism, and to interest his readers by fidelity and sympathy in the portrayal of things well known to the authors.

Other writings by Cable have dealt with various problems of race and politics in the southern states during and after the "reconstruction period" following the Civil War; while in "The Creoles of Louisiana" he presented a history of that folk from the time of their appearance as a social and military factor.

UNRULY HONDURAS

Managua, Feb. 3.

A fresh outbreak of revolutionary activities is reported in Southern Honduras, where General Ferrara, the revolutionary leader, has captured Nacome.—Reuter's American Service.

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NEW RAILWAY WAR IN ENGLAND

Men's Leader Prophesies Very Serious Trouble: Refusal of Wage Demands

London, Feb. 3.

"Very serious trouble" in the railway world is anticipated by Mr. C. T. Cramp, Industrial General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, as the result of the railway managers to-day refusing new wage demands of the Union and the Railway Clerks' Association and submitting counter-proposals for big reductions.

The programme of the Union is far-reaching. The railway companies estimate that it would mean an increase in wages of £30,000,000 a year.

The railway companies propose immediate reductions in wages of 6s. a week in rural areas and 4s. in industrial areas. It is learned that under the Railways Act the whole matter must be submitted to the National Wages Board.

Immediate Crisis Stayed

Feb. 4.

The surprise move of the companies with regard to the railway men's demands has astonished the unions, who had anticipated a stiff fight when their proposals ultimately reached the National Wages Board, but they were unprepared for the companies' counter-move, which was a proposal to reduce wages by 6s. a week in rural areas and 4s. in industrial areas.

Yesterday's meeting of the managers and representatives of the unions was preliminary to a detailed examination of the two sets of proposals.

The companies now estimate that the demands of the unions would cost £45,000,000 annually and not £30,000,000 as originally estimated, whereas their counterclaim would effect a saving in the wages bill of nearly £5,000,000 annually. The counterclaim in effect would cancel the 1920 agreement, which guaranteed the railway men a minimum of 100 per cent. over their wages in 1914.

No immediate crisis is anticipated, as the companies, move is regarded as tactical, with a view to its consideration by the Wages Board.—Reuter.

RAILWAY RESERVE CORPS

Force for Use in Case of Foreign Danger Only

London, Jan. 31.

Although he denies any knowledge of the action of the Army authorities in conjunction with the railway companies for the recruitment of railway reservists for the purpose of establishing a technical reserve corps, Mr. Stephan Walsh, the former Secretary of State for War in the Labour Cabinet, in a letter to Mr. Arthur Henderson, which was published by the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, explicitly states: "The sole reason for the development of a supplementary reserve is for purposes outside the United Kingdom if the mobilization and despatch of an expeditionary force is necessitated."

Mr. Walsh adds that an Army order guarantees that the reserve shall not be liable to be called out in aid of the civil power.—Reuter.

SELF-DETERMINATION IN NATIVE CHURCHES

A Problem for Missionaries

Washington, Jan. 29.

The Rev. Stanley Jones addressing a missionary conference on self-determination of native churches in non-Christian lands said that the workers in India were not trying to make the East a pale imitation of the West, but were offering Christ for the East to interpret for herself. He said that M. Gandhi once told him that if the missionaries came to India "as Christ came to the world" they would be irresistible.

The Rev. Oldham of London pleaded for the elimination of race prejudice.

The other speakers included the Rev. McLaurin, India, and the Rev. Hurlburt, Africa.—Reuter's American Service.

THE RESTORATION WORK ON ST. PAUL'S

Cathedral Not Unsafe but in Need of Strengthening: A Dangerous Alternative

London, Feb. 1.

The commission of experts who have been examining St. Paul's Cathedral since 1921 state that the suggestions that the Cathedral is not safe are unfounded. The methods which they have recommended for strengthening the main piers of the Cathedral will, if carried out, restore the piers to as good a condition as when they originally were built and it is very improbable that any further work will be required. They are, in effect, recommending the continuance of the work carried out by the Cathedral authorities for the past 12 years in refacing the two main piers, but with the important addition of first strengthening the interior of the piers.

Canon Alexander, the Treasurer of St. Paul's, states that the alternative to this method, namely, trying to replace the piers, is very dangerous. He is assured by the highest engineering and architectural authority in the country that an attempt to rebuild the piers would most probably mean the removal of the dome, or part of it, which would be so risky that no responsible architect or engineer would be likely to undertake it.—Reuter.

AMERICA'S REPARATIONS AGREEMENT

No Sanctions, nor Committal to Action if Payments Fail

Washington, Feb. 3.

In order further to satisfy the "irreconcilables," Mr. Hughes, the Secretary of State, has transmitted to the Senate the official text of the recent Reparations Agreement, accompanied by an explanation saying that the agreement was negotiated under the recognized authority of the President, to arrange for payments in favour of the United States. It does not provide sanctions, the explanation goes on, nor does it commit America to any action in the case of the contemplated payments not being made.

Feb. 4.

In the Senate, to-day, Senator Johnson, referring to the communication from Mr. Hughes, the Secretary of State, giving the official text of the recent Reparations Agreement concluded in Paris and an explanation, expressed deep concern regarding the results which might be expected from the agreement.

It meant, he said, a new European policy. The United States, in exchange for 2½ per cent. of the German reparations payments, risked incurring Europe's hostility. The Secretary of State had not mentioned any reservations made by the American representatives.

Senator Johnson said that he had private information that there was something of this sort and that that something might prove to be of controlling importance in coming years.—Reuter's American Service.

TROTZKY OUT OF FAVOUR

"The Prisons of Princes Are Far from Their Graves"

Moscow, Jan. 29.

The Soviet Central Executive Committee has issued a decree dismissing Comrade Trotzky from the post of Commissar of the Army and Navy and appointing M. Frunse his successor.

M. Michael Frunse, who has been appointed to succeed Trotzky as Commissar of the Army and Navy, is the son of a Moldavian peasant.

M. Frunse participated in the Moscow insurrection of 1905, he was prosecuted by the Tsarist regime five times, was twice condemned to death and finally sentenced to 10 years' penal servitaude in Siberia from where he escaped. He organized revolutionary "cells" in the Tsarist Army in 1905. Later M. Frunse commanded the Red armies against Admiral Koltchak and General Wrangel.—Reuter.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES AND PROTECTION

A Scheme to Prevent Unfair or Abnormal Competition in Individual Cases

London, Feb. 4.

Industries may henceforth secure protection if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that they are suffering from unfair or abnormal competition and also demonstrated that they are managed efficiently and economically. The period of protection, however, will be limited by a Finance Bill, in which such protection will be legalized. Moreover, no applications will be considered relating to food or drink.

The foregoing summarises a long White Paper detailing the Government's safeguarding of industries policy, which has had a mixed reception from the press.

The Conservative organs welcome the "eminently reasonable" proposals, which, they assert, satisfy all but the "most hide-bound Free-Traders," an exception being the "Morning Post," which charges the Government with safeguarding not only industries but also the pledges and compromises of the Party, resulting, in its opinion, in the likelihood that the industries will suffer for conscience sake.

The Liberal papers, however, angrily denounce "tariffs by the back door." They accuse the Government of a breach of pledge and criticise them for not embodying the proposals in a regular Parliamentary Bill.—Reuter.

SOVIET'S EMBARRASSING ATTENTIONS

All Sorts of Claims on Japan: Treaty not an Alliance

London, Jan. 31.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that, notwithstanding the friendly declarations of the Japanese Foreign Minister, Baron Shidehara, to Britain, the sagacious statesmen of Japan are likely to be embarrassed by the flamboyant talk emanating from the Soviet Foreign Commissar, Comrade Chicherin, and the Bolshevik press that they regard the whole purpose of the Soviet-Japanese Agreement as a Slavo-Asiatic alliance against Europe and America, particularly the British Empire and the United States.

The Riga correspondent of the same paper says that the conclusion of the Soviet-Japanese Treaty was signalized by a chauvinistic outburst by certain extreme Communists in the Soviet press, demanding the return of Bessarabia to Russia.—Reuter.

Only Mutual Guarantees

Paris, Feb. 1.

"Le Matin" learns from an authoritative source that the interpretation placed on the clause in the recently signed Russo-Japanese Treaty that Japan binds herself not to enter into any understanding hostile to Russia and therefore must remain aloof from any sanctions ordained by the League of Nations is unjustified. It is explained that Japan and Russia merely gave a mutual guarantee that at present neither would be bound by a treaty hostile to the other.

"Le Matin" learns that there is no alliance between them nor the promise of an alliance.—Reuter.

CHRISTIANITY'S CHANCE IN CHINA

A Remarkable London Meeting: Archbishop's High Tribute to Mr. Koo

London, Feb. 3.

Mr. Koo, travelling secretary of the World's Student Christian Movement, addressed a packed meeting at Westminster to-day on the subject of the evolution of China and its possibilities for Christianity. As the hall was not big enough to hold all the would-be hearers, Mr. Koo also addressed an overflow gathering.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who presided, eulogized the address as "a remarkable speech by a remarkable man."—Reuter.

DRAMATIC RACE AGAINST DISEASE GERM

Aeroplane and Dog Team Cross Snow Wastes with Anti-Toxin

Washington, Jan. 30.

As a result of an appeal to the Government, Mr. Darling, the aviator, has been authorized to fly from the nearest aviation station at Fairbanks, Alaska, to Nome, a distance of 400 miles, with a supply of anti-toxin in order to combat a diphtheria epidemic in that region. In response to a telegraphic appeal, a local doctor with a large consignment of anti-toxin rushed off by dog-sleigh from Henana, but it was pointed out that this would not arrive in time, as Nome was cut off by ice and snow, and an aeroplane was the only means of preventing many deaths.—Reuter's American Service.

Nome, Alaska, Feb. 3.

One of the greatest dog-team races in the history of Alaska ended yesterday morning when 300,000 units of diphtheria anti-toxin were brought here by relays, over 658 miles of snow and ice from Nenana. The time taken was 5 days 7½ hours, which is a world's record.

The anti-toxin was frozen when it arrived, and the doctors do not yet know whether it will prove efficacious to arrest the epidemic among the Eskimos.—Reuter.

U. S. SHIPPING BOARD'S EASTERN FLEET

Discussion of a New Deal: Dollar Line and Pacific Mail Willing to Take Over Ships

Washington, Dec. 29.

Offers for the purchase of a fleet of Government-owned passenger ships now operating between the Pacific Coast and the Orient were understood to be in prospect as a result of a conference to-day between Commissioner Meyer Lissner, of the Shipping Board, and representatives of three steamship concerns.

Those who conferred with Mr. Lissner were Mr. James Rolph, Jr., Mayor of San Francisco; Mr. J. Stanley Dollar, of the Dollar Steamship Company; and Mr. H. M. Gleason, general manager of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

Mr. Dollar was reported to be negotiating for the purchase of the ten President liners plying between San Francisco and Seattle and the Far East; Mr. Gleason broached the possibility of the Pacific Mail Company buying the five vessels it now operates for the Government; and Mr. Rolph was said to have discussed the purchase of five vessels by a third bidder represented by him. —Reuter's American Service.

THE GENEVA PROTOCOL UPHELD BY CANADA

Arbitration and Other Clauses Needing Rearrangement

Ottawa, Jan. 31.

In an address before the League of Nations Society last night, Sir Robert Borden, the President, warmly supported the Geneva Protocol. He thought that the matters raised in connexion with the Japanese amendments were irrelevant to the question of participation in a disarmament conference.

He suggested, however, a more logical arrangement of the articles of the Protocol, making it clear that the provisions relating to compulsory arbitration and the definition of an aggressor and of sanctions were not binding on any nation until a scheme of disarmament and the general provisions of the Protocol had been adopted at a disarmament conference.—Reuter's American Service.

DISARMAMENT AGAIN

Washington, Feb. 3.

With a slight modification of the wording, the House of Representatives has agreed to the Senate's amendment to the Naval Appropriations Bill requesting the President to call a disarmament conference.—Reuter's American Service.

IRISH REPUBLICANS' DEMONSTRATION

Hostile Reception of Mr. Cosgrave in Dublin: Rioting at Election Meeting

Dublin, Feb. 1.

The first appearance of Mr. Cosgrave, the President of the Dail Eireann, since his return from a holiday in France, to-day was attended by considerable disturbance on the occasion of a big demonstration at College Green in support of the Government candidates in by-elections to the Dail caused by the resignation of members of the National group.

Mr. Cosgrave was received with cheers and cat-calls. An immense crowd of men and women kept up cries of "Up the Republic. 'Up de Valera.'" Mr. Cosgrave, in a vigorous speech, retorted:—"The people won't be saved by stretching out their hands for the moon and doing nothing until they get it."

Over 200 police were kept very busy preserving order. There were exciting incidents when interrupters were ejected. The police arrested three persons, whom a crowd tried to release.

The meeting broke up with free fights.—Reuter.

WAS CHINA IN VIEW?

Suggestion of Credit Insurance on Exports to War-Ridden Countries

London, Feb. 3.

In a speech at Southampton today, Mr. Samuel, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Overseas Trade Department, deprecated the alarm because imports exceeded exports last year. He found that the ratio of imports to exports was practically the same as for the past 30 years, excluding the war period, but that the volume of exports was far from satisfactory, owing to the high price of coal, which could only be reduced by the miners increasing the output.

Mr. Samuel suggested the establishment of a scheme of credit insurance to cover British exporters against the risk of war and political upheavals in countries with which they traded. The commercial outlook was bright, he concluded.

Great Britain was now reaping the benefit of funding her debt to America and foreign investors were putting money into British concerns. —Reuter.

A MODEL COMMERCIAL TREATY

The U.S.-German Agreement Designed as a Pattern to the World

Washington, Feb. 3.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has decided to report favourably on the German commercial treaty, subject to reservations, under which the United States shall have the right after the first year to change the provisions relating to preferential tariff and rail rates upon 90 days' notice.

The treaty with Germany, which forbids either country to discriminate with respect to duties or railway rates in favour of goods shipped on vessels flying its own flag, is designed to serve as a model for conventions with other Powers.—Reuter's American Service.

ITALIAN DEBT TO U. S.

New Ambassador to Arrange for a Settlement

Washington, Feb. 3.

Despatches received in official circles from Rome state that the new Italian Ambassador has been instructed, on his arrival at Washington, to take up the settlement of the Italian debt to America.

The newspapers comment that, in the event of a settlement with Italy, France will be the only major European Power with which a funding settlement has not been reached.—Reuter's American Service.

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AMERICAN SUBMARINE'S ACCIDENT

S-48 Stranded in Blizzard: Ship Doomed: Crew Taken Off

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Jan.30.

During a violent blizzard yesterday evening the submarine S-48, with a crew of 25, was stranded on the rocks at Jaffrey's Point. She wirelessed that her position was dangerous.

Vessels have not been able to reach the submarine owing to the blinding snow and heavy seas. Efforts are being made to get a breeches buoy and a motor across the seven miles of snow-covered roads to shoot a line to the submarine.

Later.

The lights of the submarine S-48 disappeared during the night, probably because the batteries gave out, but the crew signalled with pocket flashlights "need help badly."

The vessel at dawn was seen partly submerged with a perceptible list, as it was resting on a mudbank. The crew were taken off this morning suffering from exposure. The submarine is leaking badly.—Reuter's American Service.

THE "GLASS COFFIN" FRAUD

Attempt to Bribe U. S. Official Punished with Gaol

New York, Jan. 30.

Mr. Gaston B. Means, formerly an agent of the Department of Justice, and Mr. Thomas B. Felder, his attorney, were to-day convicted on a charge of conspiracy to bribe a Government official in connexion with the "Glass Coffin" fraud case of 1923. Means was sentenced to two years in a penitentiary, while each of the accused was fined $10,000.

Means has had a sensational career. He was agent in the Department of Justice during the *régime* of Mr. Daugherty as Attorney General, and his name was frequently mentioned during the oil investigations early last year. It was alleged that his secretary collected $65,000 from plaintiffs on representation that the money would be used to bribe officials to drop prosecutions for alleged use of the mails to defraud.—Reuter's American Service.

SPAIN'S DIRECTORY

Patriotic Demonstrations at Barcelona

Barcelona, Feb. 1.

Sunday was given up to patriotic demonstrations on the occasion of a visit of General Primo De Rivera, who dwelt on the benefits conferred on Barcelona by the establishment of a directory. He declared that certain intensity of local Catalonian sentiment had been exploited by a few persons who were playing into the hands of covetousness and of foreigners. He stated that the Government would not tolerate even the theory of separatism, and incidentally mentioned that financial overtures had been made to the Riffs in order to secure the release of prisoners, but they never had been utilized to obtain military advantages.

Numerous local dignitaries participated in the demonstrations and delivered patriotic speeches.—Reuter.

REORGANIZATION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

Convention in London: Brotherly Love of Rival Leaders

London, Jan. 29.

Eighteen hundred delegates of the Liberal Party are holding a Convention in London to discuss reorganization with a view to reviving the party fortunes.

Mr. Asquith at the inaugural public sitting said he had not yet resigned the leadership of the Liberal Party. Mr. Lloyd George said that he unreservedly accepted Mr. Asquith's leadership, which he was convinced was essential for the preservation of Liberal unity.—Reuter.

BIG FINANCIAL FIGHT ON GOLD STANDARD

Federation of British Industries Likely to Head Opposition

London, Feb. 5.

The "Daily Express" forecasts that a big financial battle is coming over the question of the return to a gold standard, in which the combatants will be banks and city interests for the one part and producers for the other. The newspaper declares that opposition to a gold standard is headed by the Federation of British Industries, which formally has expressed its disapproval and is likely to have popular opinion as its chief ally.

The journal enumerates the chief objections to a gold standard:—

(1) It would make Great Britain an economic vassal of America, with its vast hoard of gold.

(2) The very fixity of a gold standard might operate adversely to the national interest on certain occasions.

The "Daily Express" adds:—"By accepting a gold standard humanity parts with a good deal of power for grappling with and controlling the ebb and flow between prosperity and depression.—Reuter.

BOXER INDEMNITY FUND

British Act to Remit Payments for "Educational" and other Purposes in China

London, Feb. 5.

The text is issued to-day of the China Indemnity (Applications) Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on December 11 last year by Mr. Ronald McNeill, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, when it passed its first reading.

The Bill provides that any sums received after December 1, 1922, for account of China Indemnity, will be paid to the "China Indemnity Fund," and are to be devoted to educational and other purposes beneficial to the mutual interests of his Majesty and the Republic of China.

A committee of ten persons, including one woman and at least one citizen of the Republic of China, will be appointed to advise the Foreign Secretary in regard to the application of the fund.—Reuter.

THE FRENCH WAR DEBT TO U. S.

Sentiment *v.* Materialism

Washington, Jan. 30.

M. Daeschner, the New French Ambassador to the United States, on the occasion of the official presentation of his credentials, declared amongst other things that the co-operation between France and America during the war should be extended to the payment of material debts as well as debts of gratitude.

President Coolidge in the course of his reply declared that the United States had discharged the debt of gratitude they owed France for her help in the American War of independence by the participation of American troops in the world war. He stated that both Governments should experience deep satisfaction in the solicitude that material debts should also be discharged. President Coolidge added that the friendship between the two nations was based on a clear understanding and would endure for ever.—Reuter's American Service.

EGYPTIAN ELECTIONS

Zaghlul Pasha Defeated by a Single Vote

Cairo, Feb. 4.

The First Degree elections were held to-day for the purpose of choosing the delegates who on March 6 will elect the members of the new Chamber of Deputies. Zaghlul Pasha, the former Egyptian Premier, was defeated by one vote, but the fact that he was not elected as an elector-delegate does not necessarily mean that he will not be elected as a member of the Chamber of Deputies.—Reuter.

A DEVICE FOR THE BLIND TO SEE MOVIES

An Atmospheric Narrative with Special Music

New York, Dec. 26.

Twelve hundred blind men, women and children sat in a darkened theatre to-day and "saw" their first motion picture. The reading of an atmospheric narrative, with a rhythmic arrangement, together with special music, enabled the audience to conceive the story as it was unreeled on the screen.

The hero of the screen story was a blind lighthouse keeper. The company which produced it intends to make other pictures which will be arranged especially for blind audiences.—Reuter's American Service.

THE AUSTRALIAN STRIKE

The Bolshevist Seamen's Union: Big Transport Combine Proposed

Melbourne, Jan. 30.

The 34 members of the crew of the Moeraki, who had each been sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment on January 15 for refusing to sail because some firemen were absent, returned to their duties this morning, but the wharf labourers refused to coal the vessel until she was fully manned.

Feb. 1.

The All-Australian Railways Union, at a conference, decided to negotiate with other transport unions with a view to the formation of one big union of transport workers.—Reuter.

MURDER OF SIRDAR

Two Important Arrests in Connexion with Outrage

Cairo, Feb. 2.

Two individuals, whose names have not been given, were arrested in a dramatic manner on Saturday morning aboard a train from Alexandria to Hamman, while endeavouring to escape to Tripoli. Both were armed with automatic pistols, and possessed dumdum bullets.

The greatest importance is attached to the arrests in connexion with the murder of the Sirdar.—Reuters.

U. S. AND FOREIGN POWERS

President Coolidge in Favour of Closer Relations

New York, Jan. 30.

Mr. Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, who is a friend of President Coolidge, predicted to-day that the United States would have more intimate relations with foreign nations in the near future. He believed that President Coolidge was endeavouring to ascertain the sentiment of the large majority of the people of the United States in regard to this matter, with a view to carrying out their wishes as far as he conscientiously could.—Reuter's American Service.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE BALANCE

Now Shown to Be Favourable on Invisible Exports

London, Jan. 29.

Great Britain's apparent adverse trade balance as shown in the periodical Board of Trade statistics receives a corrective in the annual report of the Board of Trade Journal.

This report estimates last year's invisible exports at £370,000,000 to which shipping contributed £130,000,000, and overseas investments £185,000,000.

Thus an apparent adverse trade balance of £341,000,000 is converted into a net favourable balance of £185,000,000.

THE WAR IN MOROCCO

Defeat of Famous Chieftain

Tangier, Jan. 31.

Native reports show that Abdel Krim has completely defeated Raisuli, who is not only a prisoner in his residence but has been compelled to pay a heavy indemnity.—Reuter.

Madrid, Jan. 31.

General Primo De Rivera stated to-day that "since the reconstruction of the Spanish line in Morocco, Raisuli's position is no affair of ours nor of the Moroccan Government."—Reuter.

THE BLACKMAIL CASE

Captain Arthur to Be Tried in France

Paris, Jan. 30.

The French Court has refused to grant extradition of Captain Arthur, the aide-de-camp or Mr. "A" in the bank case who was arrested on December 1 in Paris, basing its decision on French Statute limitations.

Captain Arthur will be tried in France for receiving stolen property for which he was formally charged to-day.—Reuter.

CLYDEBANK RENT WAR

Dodge to Evade Eviction

London, Jan. 31.

The latest dodge by four Clydebank tenants against whom interdicts have been granted for returning to their houses after evictions in connexion with the Clydebank Rent War is to exchange houses with each other. The idea is that interdicts apply specially to particular houses and persons and not generally. Accordingly an exchange of houses was completed this morning.—Reuter.

OFFER FOR CAUCASUS OIL MONOPOLY

Soviet Hesitating over Socony's Proposal to buy full Output

Paris, Feb. 4.

"*Le Petit Parisien*" publishes an account of an interview by its Moscow correspondent with Comrade Rykoff, the President of the Council of Commissars, who is reported to have stated that the Standard Oil Company had proposed to the Soviet that it should buy the entire output of oil from the Caucasus over a period of three to five years. Comrade Rykoff added that the Soviet had not yet accepted this offer, it being contrary to Russian interests to increase American economic influence in Europe.—Reuter.

BRITISH ART TREASURE RECLAIMED

Augustus John Portrait Repurchased for British Nation

New York, Feb. 4.

Sir Joseph Duveen announces the purchase of Mr. Augustus John's portrait of the violoncellist Mme. Suggia for presentation to the British nation. The portrait was originally purchased by the wealthy New Yorker, Mr. W. P. Clyde.

Before the portrait is sent to London, it will be exhibited in various American museums.—Reuter's American Service.

THE ADMIRAL'S CONFERENCE

London, Feb. 4.

The Australian cruiser Adelaide, which is on her way to Australia from England, and H.M.S. Concord, which is being lent to Australia for four months in accordance with the scheme for the interchange of ships, will attend the conference of Admirals of the China, East Indies and Australian squadrons at Singapore, in addition to H.M.S. Hawkins and H.M.S. Chatham. It had been suggested that either H.M.A.S. Brisbane or H.M.A.S. Sydney would attend the conference, but it is now learned that both vessels will take part.—Reuter.

SWARAJIST DOMINATION OF INDIAN ASSEMBLY

Delhi, Feb. 3.

The Legislative Assembly to-day, amid a good deal of excitement and some uproar, carried by 50 votes to 40 Mr. Patel's motion to introduce a Bill repealing various anti-sedition measures. Sir Alexander Muddiman, a Home member, hotly opposed the motion and read striking passages inciting to murderous crimes from the latest revolutionary pamphlets, but the Swarajists voted solidly against him.

The Assembly also carried by 49 votes to 41 a motion to introduce a Bill for the reciprocal treatment of America and those Colonies which treated Indians as an inferior race.

Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas introduced a Bill declaring the sovereign legal tender at 15 rupees.—Reuter.

A FRENCH MISSION TO VATICAN

Paris, Feb. 2.

In the course of a debate on foreign estimates, to-day, the Chamber approved by 314 votes to 250 M. Herriot's policy of abolition of the Embassy to the Vatican, which was treated as a vote of confidence.

M. Herriot agreed to the inclusion in the estimates of provision for a Mission to the Vatican to represent Alsace-Lorraine, which has a special Concordat with the Holy See.

Feb. 3.

On the resumption of the foreign estimates debate to-day, the Chamber voted by 317 votes to 246 in favour of provision for a special mission to the Vatican to represent Alsace-Lorraine. The motion was drafted in a special form in order to overcome the hostility of the Socialists.—Reuter.

PREMIER OF PRUSSIA

Berlin, Jan. 30.

Herr Braun has been re-elected Premier of Prussia by 221 votes out of 435.—Reuter.

Note.—A Reuter message from Berlin on January 24 reported that after a meeting of Ministerial parties the Prussian Government had decided to resign.

ANOTHER WORLD AIR FLIGHT

Rome, Jan. 29.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Major Depinedo, proposes to start a world flight in May next from Rome via Athens, Egypt, the Red Sea, the Southern coast of Asia, Tokyo, the Pacific Archipelago and Sydney, a total distance of about 55,000 kilometres. He will be accompanied by a mechanic, and fly a 400 h.p. machine of a flight capacity of ten hours.—Reuter.

THE LION'S BROAD BACK

Washington, Feb. 2.

The interesting fact has been disclosed in a Department of Justice report that, of 332 foreign vessels identified by Government agents as engaged in rum-running last year, 307 flew the British flag. The Department, however, expresses satisfaction at the increasing disposition of foreign Governments to discourage organized efforts in contravention of American laws.—Reuter's American Service.

CANADIAN FINANCE

London, Feb. 3.

It is announced that Canada is making arrangements on the London market to replace a loan of £5,000,000, which is now maturing, with short-term sterling Treasury bills. This is the first Canadian financial operation in London since the war and reflects the improvement in the sterling exchange.—Reuter.

NEW FRENCH CONSUL

Paris, Feb. 1.

M. Herriot, the French Premier, in the course of a debate on the budget for foreign affairs, in the Chamber of Deputies, said that he intended to appoint a consul for Batavia.—Reuter.

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THE JAPANESE NAVY AT VANCOUVER

Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 3.

The Government gave a banquet to the Admiral and officers of the Japanese naval squadron which is visiting here. Mr. Macdonald, the Chief Justice and Acting Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, in toasting the guests said that they were grateful to the Japanese Government for the friendly attitude which it had always taken in questions affecting the mutual interests of Japan and the British Empire.

Mr. John Oliver, the Premier, declared that the Anglo-Japanese Treaty had been a potent force for the maintenace of the peace of the world.—Reuter's American Service.

THE BOMBAY OUTRAGE

Bombay, Feb. 2.

The manager of the Indore estates in Bombay, Mr. Malgaonkar, has been arrested in connexion with the Malabar Hill outrage when an armed gang attacked a motor-car, killed one person and wounded two, including a woman, Mumtaz Begum, formerly a member of the household of the Maharajah of Indore. He has been remanded in custody after a preliminary hearing *in camera*.—Reuter.

NEW BRITISH DELEGATE ON REPARATIONS

London, Feb. 2.

His Majesty has approved the appointment of Baron Blanesburgh, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, as principal delegate to the Reparations Commission, in succession to Baron Bradbury. Baron Blanesburgh continues to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.—Reuter.

NEW COLONIAL JUDGES

London, Feb. 3.

The Gazette announces the appointments of Sir Charles Branch, Chief Justice of Jamaica, as Chief Justice of Ceylon, and of Mr. George Deane, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, as Puisne Judge in the Straits Settlements.—Reuter.

SWISS AIR FLIGHT TO PERSIA

Teheran, Jan. 30.

A Swiss airman, Lieutenant Mittelholzer, has arrived here by air *viâ* Italy, Greece and Turkey. He left Zurich on December 18.—Reuter.

SOVIET AND TURKESTAN

Moscow, Feb. 3.

It is semi-officially reported that M. Kalinin, the Chairman of the Central Soviet Executive, has arrived at Tashkent to participate in the Turkestan Soviet, in order to acquaint himself with the organization of the newly formed republics in Turkestan and the adjoining territory.—Reuter.

S. AMERICAN BANK MERGER

Montreal, Feb. 3.

It is announced that the Royal Bank of Canada has purchased the Stock Bank of South America, which has a paid-up capital of $5,000,000 and reserves of $2,500,000. It has seven branches in Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.—Reuter's American Service.

DUTCH LLOYD BONDS

London, Feb. 4.

The Amsterdam District Court has decided that the Royal Dutch Lloyd will have to pay the October, 1924, coupons of those seven per cent. bonds the holders of which have not agreed to re-organization. This means that their full face value must be recognized. The Company most probably will appeal to a Higher Court.—Reuter.

U. S. AND WORLD COURT

Washington, Feb. 3.

The House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee has approved resolutions which will enable the House to record its support of the policy of American adherence to the World Court.—Reuter's American Service.

A CHANCE TO KEEP HOUSE

New York, Feb. 4.

The union of the two richest families in the world is involved in the announcement of the engagement of Mr. James Stillman Rockefeller and Miss Nancy Carnegie.—Reuter's American Service.

FRENCH AIRMEN BARELY FAIL IN OBJECTIVE

Brest, Feb. 4.

Captain Lemaitre and Lieutenant Arrechard, who left Etampes on February 3 in an effort to make a non-stop flight to Dacra, Senegal, were forced to land in Mauretania, 75 kilometres from their goal. They thus covered 4,000 kilometres, which is 50 kilometres below the record made in trans-American flights.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

THE GENEVA OPIUM CONFERENCE

American Delegates Withdraw: A Tribute to their Sincerity and Helpfulness

Geneva, Feb. 5.

Interviewed by American journalists attending the Opium Conference, Viscount Cecil, the British delegate, refuted the idea that because Mr. Porter, the United States delegate, had not succeeded in carrying his point it signified defeat.

Viscount Cecil, in an interview with Reuter's correspondent, referred to the helpfulness of the American participation in the present negotiations. He was convinced of their sincerity.

Viscount Cecil and the other members of the British Delegation are returning to London on Sunday. The work of the Conference consequently is being pressed forward. It is hoped that the Drug Convention will be ready by Saturday and that it will be proceeded with even should the Americans not be prepared to sign.

The position as regards the prohibition of the use of prepared opium is unchanged. The joint committee of 15 formed from the heads of the delegations to both the First and Second Opium Conferences are meeting to-morrow to record their failure to reach an Agreement with the Americans on the subject.—Reuter.

American Delegates Withdraw

Geneva, Feb. 6.

In view of the failure of the Joint Committee of Sixteen to reach an agreement with the Americans relative to the prohibition of the use of prepared opium, the American delegation has withdrawn from the Opium Conference.—Reuter.

GOLD ON THE WAY BACK TO EUROPE

Over $50,000,000 Leaves New York in a Week: Rapid Increase

London, Feb. 5.

Some indication that a gold stream may be beginning to flow back from America to Europe and elsewhere is afforded in the weekly bullion letter of Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co., which shows that, during the last week, gold valued at $50,314,000 was announced as engaged for shipment from New York, as compared with $11,110,000 the previous week.

The former amount includes $17,989,000 for Australia, $17,775,000 for India, $5,000,000 for Berlin, $4,700,000 for "Europe and the Far East," $2,800,000 for Europe and $1,500,000 for Holland.—Reuter.

FRENCH FLIGHT TO DAKAR

Paris, Feb. 5.

The French aviators, Captain Lemaitre and Lieutenant. Arrachard, landed at Dakar to-day.—Reuter.

Note:—Captain Lemaitre and Lieut. Arrachard left Etampes on February 3 in an attempt to make a non-stop flight to Dakar in Senegal, but were forced to make a landing in Mauretania, 75 kilometres from their goal.

REFUSAL TO DEREGISTER SEAMEN'S UNION

Australian Government's Application is Disallowed

Melbourne, Feb. 6.

Justice Powers has refused the Government's application for the deregistration of the Seamen's Union which was applied for by the Federal Attorney-General on January 12. The shipowners also made a similar application on January 19.

In the course of the hearing of the application, Mr. Walsh, the President of the Seamen's Union, said that the deregistration application was the result of the bitterest industrial conflict ever known in Australia.

Justice Powers subsequently declared that he was unable to understand the Government's asking him to cause "the worst industrial war in Australia's history."—Reuter.

DEATH OF YEAST KING

Miami, Florida, Feb. 5.

The death is announced of Mr. Julius Fleischmann, the millionaire "yeast king" and philanthropist, at the age of 52.—Reuter's American Service.

A BLOW AT CHINESE IN PHILIPPINES

May be Forced to Leave through Operation of Book-keeping Law: A Harsh Measure

Manila, Feb. 5.

The Philippine Supreme Court has ruled that the so-called Book-keeping Law is constitutional, thereby confirming the legislation passed two years ago by the Legislature, which was believed to be aimed at Chinese retailers in the Philippines, many thousands of whom will be affected and probably be forced to leave the islands, unless the United States Supreme Court affords them relief.

The law was passed contrary to the wishes of Governor-General Wood. It provided that merchants' accounts should be kept in English, Spanish or a native dialect. The Chinese merchants and their Consul-General protested and succeeded in postponing the enforcement of the law until the Court had decided as to its legality. Five Justices concurred with the ruling and two dissented from it.

A few German and French houses also may be affected, though the Chinese will be the principal sufferers. The law will require Chinese merchants to employ large staffs of translators and accountants and will incidentally furnish jobs for natives.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WHEN THE COWBOY GOES TO SEA

Inland Congressman Puts U. S. Navy on Right Tack

Washington, Feb. 5.

During a discussion in the Aircraft Committee of the House of Representatives to-day, Mr. James V. McClintic (Democrat, Oklahoma) charged certain high Navy Department officials with deliberately trying to mislead the American people with regard to the facts concerning the bombing of the battleship Washington, which was scrapped in November under the Washington Agreement. Several days ago he charged the Navy with using sand-loaded bombs in the attack on the warship and to-day he asserted that he had been informed from the Navy Department that no explosive bombs were used but that they permitted a contrary impression to go out "to lead Americans to believe that the Washington could not be sunk from the air."—Reuter's American Service.

THE EXPELLED PATRIARCH

Turkey Declining All Mention of League of Nations

Constantinople, Feb. 5.

The Turkish reply to the Greek note in connexion with the expelled Patriarch, which was presented to-day to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Angora, rejects the suggestion for a reference of the dispute to the Hague Court of International Justice.

It insists that the question is entirely an internal one, and any intervention is therefore intolerable. —Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 5.

The French Government is continuing its endeavours with a view to the pacific settlement of the conflict between Greece and Turkey. —Reuter.

SWARAJIST BOLSHEVISM

Delhi, Feb. 5.

In spite of the opposition of the Government, whose spokesman, Sir Charles Innes, a member of the Executive Council, pointed out that any interference of the Assembly with the details of railway administration would mean the doom of the railways, the Legislative Assembly, without a division, to-day passed a resolution requesting the Central Railway Advisory Committee immediately to inquire into the grievances of subordinate officials of the railway.—Reuter.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 3.—The Royal Dutch and Shell group, conjointly with the Rotterdam Dry Dock Company, have taken over the Nieuwe Waterweg shipyard near Schiedam. —Reuter.

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PRICE EIGHT DOLLARS

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS OFFICE

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FROM THE FOUR WINDS

THE DISASTROUS CLOSE OF 1924

Great Britain Struck by Fierce Gales and Rain Storms: Whole Districts Under Water: Strange Sights in the Thames Districts

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

London, Jan. 1.

1924, so far as the weather is concerned, has ended very much as it has been throughout the entire year, and we are not likely to forget it in a hurry. We expect bad weather most winters, but this year the country has never recovered from the summer rains, and the torrential downfalls of the final week of 1924 have flooded most parts of the land. They really started on the day after Boxing Day, when there was a gale blowing 60 miles an hour, which swept the country from end to end.

So far as the seaside is concerned, very great destruction has been caused, especially in the English Channel and on the Welsh Coast. Heavy waves broke over the seafront at a number of places, flooded buildings and even interrupted the road traffic. Sandgate, Exmouth and Sidmouth were particularly damaged. At Exmouth the gas works were flooded and the electric light failed. In Wales, Aberystwyth suffered most, though at Llandudno the great Orme was almost surrounded by water. The town of Usk, in the centre of Monmouthshire, was isolated until Tuesday night. Boatmen and men on horseback rescued families from bedroom windows at Llanfoes, a flooded suburb of Brecon. In many parts of Ireland damage was done by flooding. The main London, Midland & Scotland Railway line near Gleneagles, Perthshire, was blocked for two hours by a landslide.

A number of ships were wrecked with loss of life and many others were damaged, while there was considerable delay in the Cross-Channel service, which had every justification for stopping altogether.

The Thames a Lake

In the London area the already swollen Thames rose still higher. The Thames Valley, from Kingston upwards for many miles, is a temporary Lake District. Meadows, roads and gardens for many miles upstream from Kingston are under water. At Maidenhead the river rose a foot in one day. Romney, near Windsor reported a five inches rise, and Teddington six inches. Around Walton, Shepperton and Chertsey the river as the summer visitor knows it, was lost to the eye. The only way to discover what part of the vista of water covered its channel was to watch the path of steam tugs as they twisted and wound their way through the miles of flooded country. At Chertsey the waters were more than three miles across. The water is over part of the Brooklands motor truck. In fact the Thames Conservancy officially admitted the river was quite out of hand.

At the various weirs the river presented a fascinating sight as the swirling waters roared through the wide-open sluice-gates. At Sunbury weir there is a normal drop of 12 ft., but on Tuesday the volume of the stream was so great that the weir-pool waters were on a level with the river above. Near Hampton Court, a houseboat broke adrift in the early morning, collided with another and sank. Hundreds of riverside bungalows were cut off from the mainland. Builders at work on cottages bordering the main Sunbury-Shepperton road were working in waters, as the water was lapping around the bottom of the scaffold poles. Fown Ferry Lane, Shepperton, ran a two-knot current, and the only way to distinguish the road boundaries was by the line of telegraph wires stretching across the water. Motor-cars, horse vehicles and cyclists had to splash their way through 18 inches of water. Housewives bent on shopping carried wading boots as well as shopping baskets. Occupants of the neighbouring cottages and bungalows had to walk to dry land along plank bridges, while some families had constructed rafts on which they ferried their way across.

Water submerged part of the lawn and tea terrace of Skindle's Hotel, Maidenhead, while gardens and bottom floors of several riverside houses were also under water. Traffic along the river road from Staines to Windsor had to plough through water stretching for several hundreds of yards. Between Bourne End to Cookham the Ferry-lane was flooded to a depth of nearly 3 ft. and traffic to be warned of the state of the road by special danger notices. The riverside road below Windsor is flooded, and the public road across Runnymede from Old Windsor to Egham has been closed owing to river encroachments.

At Abingdon the whole of the low-lying meadow land adjoining the river was completely submerged. Farmhouses, barns and stables were the only signs over a wide area that the land now invisible does not form a permanent lake bottom. The stream at Pangbourne where the channel deepens, is a surging cataract. The Rivers Kennet and London are in flood. Between Hungerford and Newbury, where the Kennet runs through a valley of marsh a mile across, there is now one long lake and swamp. It is feared that many fish on the best trout reaches will be carried away by the current or stray out of the proper river course and be left high and dry or in stagnant ditches when the floods recede. A bungalow washed away from a backwater at Weybridge went sailing down the current. The Thames flooded the old Deer Park at Richmond late on Sunday night, drowning 30 sheep, while a boatman rescued 15 on a punt. Hundreds of rats dislodged by the water, poured into the streets of Richmond and Twickenham, while in Cumberland the field mice were driven to ascend the hedges or trees.

Scene at the Embankment

On Sunday, there was less rain, but on Monday there was another very severe gale, very nearly as bad as that on Saturday. An exceptionally high Spring tide meeting the flooded Thames caused remarkable scenes on the Embankment on Tuesday afternoon. When the tide was at its height, the water level at Charing Cross Bridge was nearly six feet above the usual high-water mark. Water was forced upwards through the sewers and flowed over the Embankment side of the roadway both at Charing Cross and the Temple to a depth of several inches. Tramway-cars were driven cautiously through a torrent of water that was sweeping into the conduits. At Millbank the water was 2½ feet above the road level, and poured through gaps in the stonework of the retaining wall. This has been much weakened. Many people stood on the bridges during the afternoon watching the turbulent river, which was reported at Westminister Pier to have reached the highest level for more than 20 years.

Londoners in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe worked hard yesterday afternoon to make their houses as watertight as possible in expectation of flooding at high tide. The water swept over Cherry Garden Pier, Rotherhithe, and rushed down Cherry Garden Street and West Lane. The drains were soon overflowing, and the ground floors and basements of several houses were inundated.

At Teddington Lock on Tuesday water rushed past the weir at the rate of 6,300,000,000 gallons in 24 hours, the greatest flow for nearly six years. As the flood figure is 4,500,000,000 gallons, you will see that the figure reached on Tuesday is equal to a flood and a half.

Very much the same is happening all over the country.

Train's Thrilling Journey

A thrilling experience marked the journey from Euston to Aberdeen of the night express due at the latter terminus at 7.40 on Tuesday morning. A raging torrent submerged part of the railway between Preston and Carlisle and a large tract of the surrounding country. After it reached the flooded line the express went forward only a few inches at a time. After three hours' cautious driving the danger zone was passed and the journey resumed at normal speed. The train reached Aberdeen three hours late.

Most of the night expresses and mail trains between Euston and Scotland were delayed by the same cause at what is a very busy period. A short distance south of Thrinby Grange, between Lowther and Shap stations, the Shap runs alongside of and for a considerable distance level with the railway line. Being a mountain stream, it is liable to sudden rises, and after heavy rain becomes a river. At Shap Beck bridge the stream, railway and main south highway converge. The beck crosses the railway at a lower level. The terrific renewal of the storm on Monday night caused the beck to break its bank and overflow. The underbridge not being large enough to take the volume, in a few minutes the line for a considerable distance was submerged. Conditions were such that it became unsafe to allow trains to pass, and so at Preston and Carlisle they were sent by an alternative route.

Hampshire and Dorset

Widespread flooding prevails along the south coast in Hampshire and Dorset. In the Bournemouth district, especially at Christchurch, where the Rivers Stour and Avon meet and flow to the sea, the conjunction of the flood water and the incoming tide from the sea has caused houses to be awash on their ground floofs. On the main road from Christchurch to Southampton people have had to shift their furniture and live upstairs. The road has become inundated to a depth of about 2 ft. Horse traffic has been able to pass, and also some of the larger motor-cars, but smaller cars have been stopped and have had to be towed out. The heaviest seas ever experienced have been washing in at Swanage. From Christchurch to Ringwood the road has been under water to a depth of 2 ft and practically impassable. For many acres around Christchurch the meadows have been turned into inland seas. The place looks like a great lake.

On the west side of Bournemouth, in the Stour valley, villages are completely cut off for pedestrians, and only horse traffic can pass. One of the effects of the floods at Christchurch has been to tear houseboats from their moorings. They are now floating about in the middle of inundated fields. A motor car struck in a flooded road just outside Christchurch. The motoring party consisted of four men and two women. One of the men got out to cross the flooded fields to get help. He dropped into a ditch. After swimming out of that he saw a punt floating about in the field. He fell into some more ditches and swam or clambered out. In the end he got to the punt. In this he reached the doorway of an hotel and got help for the five people in the car. The vehicle was later towed to safety.

Worst for Ten Years

Maidstone has experienced flooding which is said to be the worst for nearly 10 years. The Medway rose so rapidly overnight as to invade the main boiler house at the Corporation Electricity Works. The Severn rose 10 ft. above summer level at Worcester. The flooding in the valleys of Wales and Monmouthshire has resulted in a number of landslides and about 5,000 miners have been thrown out of work. The railway bridge on the Great Western Railway at Arthog, near Barmouth, Merionethshire, has been shifted from its position by heavy seas and the railway line submerged. Breakdown gangs were at work all day yesterday repairing the damage. Near Newport (Mon.) a landslide partly buried a coal train with two engines.

The telephone services have been considerably disorganized by the gales, and wires are down all over the country.

There was further heavy rain on December 31, with the result that the total rainfall for 1924 recorded in London was just over 33 inches, which has only been exceeded twice this century. In 1903 the record total of 38.10 in. was reached. In 1916 the fall was 34.01 in.

A Good Christmas

The weather dominated Christmas time and the New Year, but on the whole it was a good Christmas with relatively little distress, with the public apparently able to purchase on a generous scale and with a very noticeable exodus of families to the country and seaside. London itself was very quiet and there were unusually few people to be seen. There was practically a public holiday from Christmas Day, the Thursday, to the following Monday, though there was much less outdoor life than usual.

New Year's Eve was celebrated by the usual hotel and similar festivities, but these have very largely become pure advertising and possess no particular features, apart from their extravagant charges. Fortunately, there have been fewer Christmas accidents and mishaps than usual, though four out of a party of six people travelling from Cardiff to Church Stretton were killed when their motor car skidded and plunged over the side of Stokesay Bridge, Craven Arms, Shropshire, into the River Onny, 30 feet below. One of the victims was blind. The chauffeur apparently approached too quickly a dangerous "S" bend. The railways were free from mishaps, but their services were poor, which perhaps explains this immunity The Post Office broke down badly at Christmas time with the delivery of letters and parcels, and throws all the responsibility on the public for posting late.

Meantime there is a Revenue deficit of 89 millions for the nine months of the financial year ending next April, but it is quite possible that this will be made good before the end of the period, though if there is a surplus it will be very small. There are a certain amount of threatened industrial troubles, but none have assumed an acute phase yet and the trade outlook is supposed to be fairly good. On the whole, therefore, the New Year starts under substantially encouraging conditions. We can do with better times.

OUR PARIS LETTER

The Usual Xmas Wastefulness: Alarming Decline of Births: Our Hopeless Traffic

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris, Dec. 28.

We have had the usual "record" Christmas, with more people eating more food in more restaurants and paying more money than ever before. Larger bands played louder and longer, the atmosphere was emptied more quickly of all breathable elements, women wore more point and less clothing than ever, and on Christmas morning the church bells mingled with the gentle chiming of hotelkeepers and restaurant-keepers counting their money. Boxing Day found everyone with an air of lassitude, only to be broken by a look of hatred if anyone mentioned turkey. All this is perfectly normal, including the statement that it is a record, without which remark no Christmas would be really Christmas at all. And the fountains of champagne and heavy barrage of leaping corks were also well within the frame of the average Paris Christmas, in which the only undiscoverable item of pleasure in the merry round is any moment devoted to recollection of the origin of the feast. When the early priests decided to keep some of the Druid observances with which to celebrate the new festival they must have been far from foreseeing that humanity would only be a few hundred years before it had dropped the Birthday in favour of rites which would have considerably startled the simple Druid.

Wine Trade's Good Promise

There is little fear that even Christmas and the New Year will lead to any shortage of wine just yet. The alleged drought in America has considerably damaged the wine export trade of France, but is far from having annihilated it; as some small set-off it must be admitted that nearly every American who escapes from America sets himself during his period of liberty to consume as much good French wine as he can, before the land of "liberty" gets him back again. The general change in manners since the war also helps to keep consumption lively, for nowadays people give champagne to their guests who in old days would only have offered red wine.

This year's wine crop promises well. The official figures for the vintages of the South of France and Algeria are expected to total about 70 million barrels. Anyone who expects that lower prices will result must still be suffering from Christmas optimism. The wine-growers of France are very solidly syndicalized, and everyone knows that organizations of this sort are merely modern versions of the first tribal system—they consist of several people banding themselves together to protect themselves. The other day 200 wives of bakers descended upon a French Minister and said that the price of bread should not be lowered until the price of flour was lowered. A few months ago, when the price of flour was lowered, four or five hundred bakers sent a deputation to the same wretched servant of the Republic, and said that before they lowered the price of bread for a silly reason like that they would see him further, or words to that effect. So the world wags, from Christmas to Christmas, and mostly acts as a tail to wag the poor old dog called the public.

Too Few Babies

Two or three years ago the positive spate of expenditure which sweeps Paris along from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day was so bitterly resented by the indigent unemployed that they made threatening little parties outside night restaurants, which growled disconcertingly at the diamond-bright folk who had Rolls-Royces waiting to take them from one magnum of champagne to another. There is practicelly no unemployment in France now, but biting poverty does remain, and Parliament is being asked to attend in particular to the question of big families. Depleted of her manhood by war, with a birth-rate that was steadily falling long before 1914; with marriages becoming rarer, and an uncomfortable rate of infant mortality, France has the most urgent need of babies. Napoleon took his own methods of combating the shortage of boys and youths caused by his own bloody campaigns. In these days France is too much afraid of another Napoleon to accept really drastic legislation even on a point like this. The Napoleonic laws protecting men from the necessity of supporting their illegitimate offspring have been whittled away to nothing. The womanhood of France has learned by a century of pinching and difficulty that the ideal life with a bunch of babies round her is not to be found outside fairy-tales.

A married mother who has two children feels that she has done her duty by the State; an unmarried mother seldom has more than one. The laws benefiting "*familles nombreuses*" are applicable to parents of as few as three. Monsieur Cadic, a deputy, is trying to enlarge the amount of help given to the struggling families where many small children are being brought up in privation. At present the happy father of an enlarging family may receive as much as 90 francs a year —at present exchange, just over £1. Monsieur Cadic wants the sum quadrupled, which would cost the State something less in poor relief, but not all the sum involved of nearly a hundred and fifty million francs. He managed to rouse his hearers into a certain self-consciousness by pointing out that among 19 ministers of the present Cabinet they could only muster 22 children.

Street Accidents

It is an odd thing that while street accidents are increasing at a startling rate, fatal ones are diminishing in number. There were nearly double the number of deaths caused by Paris traffic in 1914 than there have been during the last 12 months. Slighter accidents, however, have jumped in two years from seventy-one thousand to one hundred and twenty-seven thousand. Apart from the suffering caused, one must remember that almost all these represent some kind of disturbance in the economics of employers and private families. This problem of the Paris streets is rapidly becoming almost as serious as if it were some little local civil war. The main traffic artery of Paris, the Grands Boulevards, is now so congested that it is much quicker to walk along it than to drive; and it has not yet occurred to one taxi-driver in 20 that sometimes the longest way round is the shortest way there.

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OUR AMERICAN LETTER

Bootleggers De Luxe: Prospects of Commercial Prosperity in 1925: The Naval Manoeuvres: Conservation of Oil: Selling Chinese Girls into Slavery

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.

In the United States an eminently respectable member of the community, no matter in what part of the country he may be found, is what is called the "telephone bootlegger." This gentleman sits authoritatively near the telephone in the clubs, in the hotels, sometimes in official places, and takes orders for intoxicating liquor. Either on his person or near at hand for ready reference is a directory of names of people, all of whom have been vouched for as being "on the square." Having taken note of what is required, whether it be by the single vessel in which the liquor is put up, or by the case of such vessels, this gentleman refers to his directory; should the name of the person at the other end of the wire be duly listed, the bootlegger either descends himself to the basement, or sends one of his many messengers employed for the purpose, the wine or particular beverage required is placed into a limousine of expensive type, and is forthwith delivered to the man whose name appears in the directory of clientele.

In San Francisco, the other day, society in general was perturbed when it became known that a thriving member of the bootlegging tribe who did business by telephone, had been captured. Taken by and large, that was not in itself a terrifying affair, but when it transpired that this man had not had the decency either to lose or burn his directory before the capture, the clientele became agitated, for these distinguished people sensed the grave risk they ran of having their names in public print as being private guzzlers, influential supporters of the bootlegger.

Concurrently with this raid, another sensational coup was staged not far away, with the result that the source of the wholesale supply of liquor and a big rum manufacturing establishment was confiscated.

The bootlegger *de luxe*, who was taken into custody in a sumptuously furnished apartment at Bush Street, had a rather nasty trick played upon him by Federal agents. It happened in this wise:

The two Federal officers took a room in a well-known hostelry called the Hotel Whitcomb; they telephoned; the telephone bootlegger said that it could be done. They would wait, they said, and one Mr. Hugo Mack intimated "that it would be right along"—and it went, in the care of one Jack Morgan. Jack was arrested with the arrival of the liquor, and Mack, with the terrifying tell-tale record, was arrested immediately afterwards. I hear that in all the names there represented San Francisco's "three hundred"—there is the name of a captain in the army, another name that is spelt exactly like that of one of the local judges, and announcement is now made that each of those 300 people listed in the directory will be investigated and may face prosecution "if it can be shown that they have been ordering liquor by telephone."

The way of the drinker is hard in this country.

Manœuvres Planned Four Years Ago

Considerable discussion has been taking place in the Japanese and other press regarding the naval manœuvres of 1925. It now appears that the event which is to take place in Hawaiian waters in the spring will be merely a part of a four-year programme evolved five years ago, and is in no way whatever connected with the project popularly believed by a section of the Japanese press. Thus, says an official despatch, officials of the Navy "offer complete refutation of pacifist allegations that the manœuvres were actually designed to constitute a warlike gesture toward Japan."

Admiral E. W. Eberle, chief of the bureau of operations, has offered as proof of this, plans to send the fleet across the Pacific, which were worked out during the Wilson administration. The admiral disclosed that the main reasons for the Hawaiian waters being selected for the 1925 exercises were to evolve a successful system of anchorage in that vicinity and to cooperate with the army. This programme will require the army and the local naval establishment to defend Hawaii against a naval attack. Admiral Eberle also offered an explanation of part of the fleet going down into Australian waters at the conclusion of the manœuvres—the voyage is organized as a "courtesy" cruise, which will incidentally allow of a fuel arrangement test for a long cruise.

I believe that the ships of the fleet will be fuelled entirely from American colliers attached to them. A good many of your Far Eastern readers will remember the fiasco of 1908 when President Roosevelt sent the fleet around the world and the ships were forced to rely upon British colliers to complete the cruise.

World's Oil Supply

The oil industry is somewhat peeved regarding President Coolidge's plans for a conservation commission. At a recent meeting of the America Petroleum Institute the opinion was freely expressed by oil men that if the Government had "dabbled" in the industry during the past 15 years there would have been no such development such as the world knows to-day. One prominent oil man said that it was "tommyrot," this idea that the world's oil would "peter out". The oil men may be living in a fool's paradise, but it is certainly true that they do not share the United State Government's view of an early and rapid depletion of the world's oil fields.

Discussing this matter with an oil producer to-day, I gained the impression that all men engaged in the industry feel that there is a most unnecessary waste of oil, particularly in fuel oil, which is sold in competition with coal. It is fully apparent that an end must some day come to what is called the "petroleum age", but that time is so far off that before it is reached satisfactory substitutes will be found for all the uses to which oil is put to-day. One reason for the confident attitude of oil men in general is that they have seen within the past ten years such remarkable developments in the handling and refining of oil-developments by which one barrel of crude oil is made to do the work of three a few years ago.

If the Coolidge conservation commission can get a better understanding of the industry, so much the better for all concerned, says one oil man; but the commission is regarded as a "high-class" one. Which is probably true, for there is no industry in this country more watertight than is oil.

Radio-Driven Air Craft

While President Coolidge and some others are worrying about the possible depletion of the oil supply, engineering minds in the U. S. Navy are declaring that they will soon have air craft entirely independent of gasoline or any other volatile fuel. Those of your readers who have read Marie Corelli's "Secret Power" will remember the wonderful airship that the principal character in the story handled, which was propelled with the power that was kept secret. This secret power is now said to have been found in the development of radio. A recent report on this matter says that Navy men do not regard this as an idle dream. Already radio waves have been employed in the guidance of distant vessels and aircraft. The problem of bringing the waves to the height and power of supplying motive force to aircraft is a matter of multiplication of the units and offering means of application.

Radio power may solve many of the present-day problems of aviation. It is predicted it may put an end to motor failures. These failures have been the source of the great majority of air disasters. An electric motor or a series of motors, drawing their power direct from the air by means of an antenna or aerial trolley might prove far more dependable than the internal combustion engine with its multitude of moving parts, its temperamental carburetors and its erratic spark plugs. The mere thought of radio power for aircraft opens a wide field for the imagination. The question arises as to whether each flying machine would have its own individual wave length or whether each nation would choose a standard wave length, which would remain as great a secret as it would be possible to make it. The chances are that each squadron of airplanes or dirigibles would have a given wave ratio so that interference or "short circuiting" by the enemy could affect only one batch of bombers or fighters at a time.

Radio engineers contend that there is no limit to the number of practical wave lengths or bands, as broadcasting instruments for receiving instruments have not been perfected to the degree that will permit the use of waves meter by meter or by the fractions of a meter. There is comparatively little difference in adjusting the projecting apparatus, but a great majority of the radio phone receivers are so little selective that wide bands must be employed to prevent interference to a degree which would make the enjoyment of the broadcasting out of the question.

Selling Chinese Girls

Somewhat of a sensation is being caused in certain circles in this part of the United States by the Director of Chinese Missions for the American Baptist Home Mission Society. During the past few months, Dr. Shepherd and Miss Cameron, superintendent of the Chinese Presbyterian Home in San Francisco, have rescued 28 girls who have been purchased in China for about $200 and sold as slaves here for approximately $4,500 each. It is said that these 28 are only a fraction of the total number of young Chinese girls who have been "lured to this country as supposed wives, only to find themselves purchased outright and then 'rented out' as slaves."

Dr. Shepherd declares that a regular system is carried on in this traffic. Those engaged in it, he alleges, send agents back to China to pretend to marry girls, and then bring them into the United States as their wives.

I have not space to quote all that is said to be going on, but if it is true, the story will stand alongside any tragedy that has ever been enacted in old slaving days. It is asserted that these unfortunate creatures are put up to auction and the highest bidder takes them, some of the prices having reached as much as $7,900. These agents select young country girls in the interior of China, make the customary presents to their parents and when the girls get here, with no knowledge of English or the customs of the country, they are marched off into absolute slavery.

To those of us who know China well, all this seems quite within the bounds of possibility. There is undoubtedly many a father who will sell his daughter for a few hundred taels, and the Chinese buyers are clever enough to do the rest. The average foreigner in Shanghai hardly realizes how much of this goes on in interior provinces. Many a time have I seen a father going to market with two girls of saleable age riding in deep baskets slung on either side of a pack animal. Yunnan is a famous province for this sort of thing, and from Yunnanfu a good number of girls find their way down to Canton by way of the West River, where they are sold into slavery and worse.

SALE OF CHINESE ART IN NEW YORK

Total of $11,179 Realized by Anderson Galleries Auction

New York, Dec. 21, 1924.

The collection of old Chinese jewellery and objects of art sold Friday and yesterday at the Anderson Galleries brought $11,179.50.

A green jade double ball drop with six jade tassels on a green silk cord, No. 328 of the catalogue, was bought by H. A. Ronald for $410 Miss H. Counihan, agent, paid $335 for No. 318, a pair of finely carved green jade water plants in handsome pots on stands; and for No. 319, a white jade flower plant combined with brown agate, rose-quartz, carnelian and other stones, in an oblong cloisonne post, she paid $350. Mr. J. H. Morgan bought No. 317, a flower lamp in green jade, Russian lapis and coral in a spinach green pot with carnelian butterfly top for $275. For No. 295, a yellow quartz and rose tourmaline necklace with pendants, 30 beads on a yellow and red silk knotted cord, F. R. Hazard paid $210.—Reuter's American Service.

PONTA DELGARDA, AZORES, Feb. 1.—The British motor vessel Silver Pine, bound from Singapore to New York, has put in here owing to defective machinery.—Reuter.

AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES

Comprehensive Study by a Shanghai Writer

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Washington, Dec. 30.

The problems raised by the retention of the Philippines by the United States, and the general effect of the Philippines on the entire question of Occidental policies in the Far East, are discussed in an extremely able manner by Judge D. R. Williams, well known American attorney of Shanghai, in "The United States and the Philippines," which has just been published by Doubleday, Page & Company.

Judge Williams' book has been praised in glowing language by several reviews I have already seen but the review appearing in the "New York Times" book review section on Sunday, December 28, apparently does the work the most justice.

"Judge Williams' book on the Philippines, while by no means an exhaustive treatment of that complex and baffling theme, is by far the most important and authoratative contribution to the important national question involved in the last decade," the reviewer asserts.

"He was Secretary to the Taft Commission which went to the Philippines in 1900, later served on the insular judiciary, and has lived in the Orient for more than 20 years. He writes, therefore, from long and intimate association with the terrain and the problems arising out of it. He has succeeded in presenting briefly just the sort of information people in this country must have if they are to act intelligently in dealing with the Philippines and the Far Eastern situation in general. His book should be read by every American who has the prestige and best interests of his country at heart and who would avoid snap judgments in matters regarding which only exact information can save us from doing foolish things and suffering irreparable losses.

"To most Americans the question of the Philippines—when they have thought of it at all—has presented little more than a sentimental issue, their views being shaped and coloured by party declarations, by vague ideas on 'self determination' and by artful and frequently misleading independence propaganda. Such information as filtered through was conflicting, and a general feeling was created that the interests of both Americans and Filipinos would be served by our withdrawal from the islands.

"Recent happenings, however, have focused public attention once more upon the Philippines and upon those vast territories to which they are neighbour. A realization is slowly dawning that in this Pacific area, with its uncounted millions, are enveloped the great problems of the future, political and commercial, and that world civilization possibly will meet there its downfall or achieve its final triumph.

"In the gradually shifting combinations which war and circumstance have wrought in this Far Eastern arena since 1898 the possession and ultimate control of the Philippines have become invested with an importance utterly undreamed of when they passed into our keeping. Fronting for a thousand miles and more on the coast of Asia commanding the gateways leading to the Orient from Europe and India to the West, and from Oceania to the south—and screening every approach to the Asiatic mainland in all that stretch of ocean extending from Japan to the Equator — the Philippines have emerged a vital and dominant factor in the titanic struggle now shaping for trade supremacy in the greatest potential markets of the world. This fact is uniformaly recognized by those who have studied and diagnosed the present and probably future trend of events in the Far East."

Such is the background wherewith Judge Williams emphasizes the grave responsibility resting upon the American people in the premises. A surrender of the Philippines by the United States and a withdrawal of our power and influence across the Pacific (now seriously debated), he argues, would inevitably precipitate a ferment of competing and conflicting interests throughout Asia, disastrous alike to the Filipino people, to the welfare of our nationals, and to the peace and progress of mankind.

Preliminary to a graphic account of internal Philippine conditions, the author gives a comprehensive sketch of the Far Eastern situation as a whole and of the bearing which America's entrance on the Asiatic stage in 1898 had upon the plans and ambitions of Japan and various European powers. Among the fruits of our appearance on the scene are included John Hay's announcement of the 'open door' policy, a halting of the partition of the Chinese Empire then in progress, and the insistence upon equal rights for all in the trade and commerce of Eastern Asia—a stand which culminated logically in the Washington Conference.

The Philippines and their people are then described, and the nature of the trust assumed by the United States and the obligations thereby created clearly defined. The author tells who and what the Filipino Malay really is, both in his racial history and inherent characteristics; what Spain encountered when taking over the islands in 1561, and the influence exercised and modifications worked upon the natives during her long rule; what sort of material in territory and people the United States inherited from Spain in 1899, and what, in his opinion, would inevitably have transpired had the islands not then come within our authority and protection; what our government has done on behalf and in the interests of the Filipino people during the years between and how they have reacted to the privileges and advantages accorded them.

"The question of Philippine independence is discussed at length, and the specific perils and difficulties such a status would hold, for the Filipino people—both now and in the long future—are analyzed. The matter of independence propaganda and the interests and individuals concerned in 'putting it across' are reviewed. An estimate is made of the influence this propaganda has upon the American public and upon Congress. There is also a detailed analysis of the motives that inspired the attack upon Governor General Wood by Filipino politicians and of the consequences of this attack upon the masses of the Filipino people.

"The author sets forth the economic and other advantages accruing to the United States—and through the United States to our Filipino wards — from American control of the islands, and stresses the imperative need of retaining the archipelago as an Oriental trade base and as a domestic and controlled source of supply for tropical products. He then points out that voluntarily to surrender these advantages—absolutely essential to our economic future, and to secure and enjoy which our trade adversaries have fought and intrigued for almost a century—would be to betray the interests of the American people. Such an eventuality, he concludes, would also operate to the everlasting prejudice and hurt of the Filipino people, for whose happiness and properity we stand responsible."

It is always interesting to read a book by an author one knows, but in the case of Judge Williams' book on the Philippines it is a double pleasure because of the fund of information and clear logic he displays in unfolding the entire Philippines issue in compact style. It will unquestionably have an extremely good distribution in the United States and should prove very popular in the Philippines and among Americans in China.

Miss Rosina Filippi gave a special performance at her studio in London last month to introduce Miss Rose Quong, a Chinese actress, and to show what her professional pupils could do in artificial comedy. Miss Quong has a good voice, a ready command of emotional intensity, and speaks perfect English (writes H. H. in the "Observer"). But the hard little melodrama, put together, one imagines, merely to exploit these gifts, gave her performance the effect of a *tour de force*, and left one with a sense of disappointment. A part that took her racial characteristics into greater account would have been more interesting.

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ROUND THE TOWN IN WASHINGTON

Americans with China Connexion: Chances for U. S. Merchant Marine: Britain's Trade Recovery: Prohibition Causing Whiskey Famine

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Washington, Dec. 22.

Although there are very few actual "China hands" in Washington at the present time there are a number who have an interest in all things affecting China through the fact that they have relatives who are among the well known residents of Shanghai, Peking, Tientsin and other cities in China.

Never a day passes but I see Albert Fox, star reporter on the staff of the "Washington Post," who is a brother of Charles J. Fox of Tientsin. Mr. Fox is assigned to cover all the important events that occur in Washington and is well fitted, both by training and experience, to handle the maze of intricate journalistic problems one meets in Washington.

Mention of the "Washington Post" needs an explanatory note. Abroad, because of the fact that Col. George Harvey, former American Ambassador to Great Britain, is the editor, it is generally considered a semi-official organ of the Coolidge administration. That opinion might be held in China so it might be well to emphasize that it is not. Col. Harvey, it is true, is an intimate of President Coolidge, and unquestionably on some occasions has the inside track in interpreting news from an Administration point of view, but the "Post" is also often on the other side of the fence.

At the present time the "Post" is engaged in a continuous attack on the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Wilbur, lambasting him at every conceivable opportunity, and Col. Harvey's differences of opinion with the Secretary of State, Mr. Hughes, are well known to Americans. Within the last few months I have had ample opportunity to check the "Post" against unofficial statements from the Administration spokesman, as well as official statements, and such a check clearly reveals the fallacy of considering the "Post" the semi-official organ of the present administration.

* * *

Another Washington newspaperman who has a brother in China is Laurence Todd, Washington correspondent of the Federated Press, a news service which specializes in furnishing labour newspapers with Washington occurences and opinions, nearly always in a belligerent mood.

Mr. Todd's brother is Mr. O. J. Todd, the well known American engineer whose work in North China is so well known to all who keep in touch with engineering in China. The relationship was called to mind again when I had occasion to show Laurence Tood an article by his brother on road construction in Hunan which appears in a copy of the "North-China Herald" just received.

Mr. Ben Kleine, another well known American newspaperman of Peking, who recently returned to the United States, has just left Washington after "seeing the sights" for a trip West. With Mrs. Kleine he expects to become acquainted again with Chicago and middle western cities for a few weeks, including a visit to his home at Savannah, Missouri, and then is expected to return to Washington.

A letter came to-day from Mr. Cliff Gorman who will be remembered as being with the Columbia-Pacific Shipping Company in Shanghai. He is still interested in shipping, being the representative of the Port of Seattle in New York, with offices in the Munson Building down on Wall Street where so much financial history is written. I saw Mr. Gorman several times when in New York and he now writes to say he has just returned there from a seven weeks trip to Seattle, visiting Ohio, Oregon and Montana *en route* and taking a side-trip down into California.

* * *

Continued growth of the American Merchant Marine was predicted by Mr. R. Stanely Dollar, brother of Mr. J. Harold Dollar and actively engaged in furthering the Dollar steamship interests, when he arrived in New York yesterday from a trip around the world.

"The American Merchant Marine has the best chance it ever had to regain the supremacy it once held," Mr. Dollar asserted. "It is only a question of plugging. One thing essential for the Shipping Board to do is to plan a building programme for the future. It is not necessary for the ships to be built now, but some programme should be worked out.

"Government operation of the ships in the last few years has been decidely effective in keeping the American flag on the sea and the Shipping Board has done its work well. It has resulted in American shipping being a factor on the trade routes in which it is engaged, but there is a greater field for expansion. I want to see more Americans go into the shipping business. It is necessary for the development of the country."

* * *

Almost co-incident with Mr. Dollar's interview the Shipping Board here in Washington announced that it had approved the plan of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company to build a passenger liner at a cost of $6,560,000. The ship is to be built by William Cramp & Son of Philadelphia. According to present plans the ship will be 582 feet in length—somewhat longer than the 'President' liners which call at Shanghai—83 feet in width, a displacement of 20,000 tons, capable of a speed of 22 knots, and with accomodations for 600 first class passengers. It is the largest passenger ship contract ever awarded an American shipbuilding firm. The vessel will be used in Pacific coast voyages to the Hawaiian islands and will probably sail from both Los Angeles and San Francisco.

* * *

American prohibition may cause a rise in the price of Scotch in Shanghai yet. Despatches to the "Chicago Tribune" from Edinburgh allege that Scotland is threatened with a whisky famine because of the enormous demands from the United States. The stores of the Scotch distilleries are almost entirely depleted by constant calls for liquor from the West Indies, Bahamas and Mexico, from where the stuff is supposedly smuggled into the United States. Established firms are obtaining the heaviest premiums for whisky destined for American consumption and as a result nearly all the mature stock is gone. Smaller distilleries are springing up all over Scotland, according to the report, making whisky which is shipped to the United States after ageing two or three weeks, while the British law requires that it be aged three years at least before being sold in England.

The despatches from Scotland may be right but one who has been in China and has had good Scotch cannot but think that a vast majority of the so-called Scotch now sold in the United States by boot-leggers in no more than a 17th cousin to the original. The only possible comparison with the boot-legger's "special stuff" which is going the rounds at this Christmas season is with that fine old stock from Hongkew. Scotch is quite scarce in New York and Washington, at least, and retails at from $7 to $10 gold a quart. Synthetic gin is plentiful at $5 a quart, and corn whisky, coloured and doped to taste like brandy, sells for $10 a gallon—and is the best of the lot.

* * *

Exports of British manufactures and produce dropped about 24 per cent. during the year ended in September as compared with the previous fiscal years, according to a report just made to the U. S. Department of Commerce from Acting Commercial Attaché Butler at London. The re-export of foreign and colonial good's however, has dropped only 11 per cent. from pre-war levels. The figures show, according to Mr. Butler, that the British merchant, as in pre-war days, is handling other people's products in two directions—selling the raw materials of the colonies to Europe and the United States and merchandising within the Empire Continental and American made textile goods and a wide range of other manufactures of secondary importance.

Selecting 14 principal commodities, Mr. Butler emphasizes the steady return, in the last three years, of world trade to channels passing through London and Great Britain, a tendency which is noticeable in all branches of British commerce, but more particularly in raw materials than in manufactured goods. Yet the point is made that the sale of foreign and colonial manufactured goods through London to the colonies is very nearly on the same scale as in pre-war days. Such a development is natural, as the colonies come to London for the financing of their commercial operations, and the sale of colonial raw materials in London establishes credits which enable these buyers to purchase the imports they require.

About two-thirds of the total re-export business of the United Kingdom is in wool, tea, raw cotton, hides and skins, and rubber. In the report covering the first nine months of 1924, Germany, France and the United States purchased about half of the total British re-exports. This is a normal situation conforming with the pre-war importance of these three markets. The enormous increase in the movement of foreign and colonial goods to Russia offers an interesting feature, the 1924 figures being more than four times as large as those for the previous year, although the volume to-day is still very substantially lower than that of the pre-war period.

BUSINESS NOTES FROM AMERICA

Heavy Decrease in Silk and Artificial Silk Importations During 1924: The World Trade Outlook

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Washington, Jan. 2.

American imports of silk and artificial silk during the first 11 months of 1924 were greatly under the figures for the same period in 1923, according to figures just made public by the Department of Commerce, and indicate beyond that that silk importations from China and Japan must have fallen off in 1924 enormously.

Total silk and manufactures imported during that period amount to $330,197,342 as against $408,126,768 in 1923.

Raw silk importations decreased from $45,433,901 to $44,868,465.

Silk waste import decreased from $8,475,127 to $6,502,837.

Manufactured silk imports decreased from $40,869,514 to $34,802,656.

Spun sill decreased from $4,201,166 to $3,518,777.

Broad silk decreased from $16,267,758 to $12,320,570.

Pile fabrics imports decreased from $6,350,485 to $3,727,701.

Silk laces and embroideries imports decreased from $4,496,166 to $4,334,957.

Artificial silk (rayon) imports fell from $9,505,951 to $5,111,398.

Yarn, waste and thread imports fell from $7,554,664 to $3,239,526.

Manufactures of artificial silk fell from $1,951,287 to $1,871,872.

The only increase in silk importation is shown in silk wearing apparel, the importations of which increased from $5,485,057 in 1923 to $7,210,433 during the first 11 months of 1924.

A Test for Silk

The "Kansas City Times" reports that a machine is now in use which is so delicate that it detects the slightest unevenness in silk thread down to 2-1000 of an inch and counts and classifies under 11 heads any unevenness and other defects in the thread. It performs work so minute that it escapes the human hand completely and is visible to the eye only under powerful microscopes. The machine is introducing an unprecedented precision into the testing of silk shipments from Japan and China.

Essentially it is a machine for winding silk from bobbins into skeins by passing the thread through a groove in a gauge. The groove which is adjusted until a feeler of .002 of an inch thick, fits close enough to support a specified weight. As 10 threads pass through 10 separate grooves the least variation in any thread is detected and the machine immediately stops.

Cable reports from various parts of the globe indicate that more favourable business is in prospect, according to Department of Commerce reports.

India—Political conditions quieter and business outlook reassuring. Abundant crop yields have had a salutary effect on the money market. Large credits are piling up and opportunities are offered for free imports of overseas commodities. Exchange appears to be stabilized and the government is giving support to the maintenance of the rupee at its present level. Lines of competition are tightening. Germany is making aggresive bids for textile machinery and dye trade. Present exchange favours American exporters and offers good sales prospects for 1925.

Australia—Trade prospects greatly improved. More settled labour outlook and excellent crops engender spirit of optimism. Wool sales continue to reflect the strong position of the market. Expansion of agricultural machinery and implement trade is forecast.

Austria—High interest rates for commercial credits are severly hampering business. Industrial production is at low ebb and unemployment increasing. Nine months' trade returns show an unfavourable comparison with 1923.

Norway—Economic developments bear proof of sustained general recovery in business and finance. The crown continues to appreciate and the money market is becoming easier. The stock exchange is buoyant and exports are gratifying. Complete peace has been restored in labour disputes and unemployment is decreasing.

Denmark—Prosperity maintains in dairying and agriculture. Exports are running at very high figures and good prices are being obtained. Industrial output remains at a satisfactory level but continued stringency of the money market is handicapping business somewhat.

Finland—General economic conditions are improved despite lack of capital and high interest rates. Crops have been successfully financed and the timber outlook is considered more promising. Financial position of the government is considered good. Prices for wood pulp and paper continue satisfactory. Railway conditions are better as result of increased trading with Russia but shipping is somewhat less satisfactory. Foreign trade continues well and favourable balances of trade highest since 1921.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE NEW YEAR

When Father Time has closed the door
On poor old Nineteen Twenty Four,
And introduced his new-born, live,
Young, hopeful—Nineteen Twenty Five,
I think it would be tactful, maybe,
To make a fuss of Time's new baby:
To pat and pet the little dearie,
And call him "quite a bonnie Yearie."

Then, as he grows a lusty lad,
He may persuade his ancient Dad
To bring us on his ample wings
All manner of delightful things:
The best of luck; the best of weather;
The best of friends; and altogether
Give us a glimpse of days arriving
When shall all be glad and thriving.

J. H. G.

ORIENTAL IMMIGRANTS AND CANADA

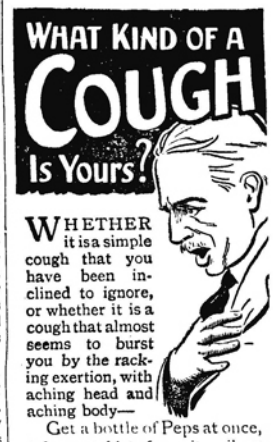
British Columbia's Request for Treaty Abrogation

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 18.

The British Columbia Legislature by a unanimous vote to-day decided to request the Canadian Federal Government to abrogate all international treties which at this time prevent the Dominion from controlling Oriental immigration. The action took the form of the passage of a resolution offered by William Sloan, Minister of Mines.

Mr. Sloan said that Canada must be kept for Canadians, adding that "Orientals and whites will not mix."
—Reuter's American Service.

MRS. CORA LA FORGE was granted her fifteenth divorce in the St. Louis (Missouri) courts, not long ago. "You are the best customer we have and we should give you a reduced rate on your cases," the Judge remarked. She had been married to her last husband at three different times. Mrs. La Forge was first married at 14, is now 45, and in a statement following her last divorce, she said the still hoped for a perfect mate. An incurable optimist!



WHETHER it is a simple cough that you have been inclined to ignore, or whether it is a cough that almost seems to burst you by the racking exertion, with aching head and aching body—

Get a bottle of Peps at once, take a tablet from its silver wrapper; and as it dissolves on the tongue, breathe in the

HEALING, BALSAMIC FUMES

that are then given off. Notice how the balsamic odours find their way by inhalation along all the breathing passages and there allay the inflammation causing you trouble.

You cannot possibly get at these delicate membranes by any other way. Liquid medicines are merely swallowed into the stomach. *Peps act direct on the affected tissues* and remove the cause of the irritating cough in a way no other devised remedy can.

PEPS

PEPS tablets are obtainable in handy glass bottles of medicine vendors in Shanghai, Hongkong and throughout The Straits.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury. S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

PROTECTION OF BRITISH VESSELS FROM PIRACY

Important Minority Report of Piracy Committee; Its Activities Limited; Unsuitability of Present Regulations; Grilles a Danger and Opposed to Merchant Shipping Act; Indian Guards Claimed to be Unsuitable; Duties of Police; The Convoy System; Wireless.

SUPPRESSION OF PIRACY THE DUTY OF H. M. NAVY

We have now received from the China Coast Officers' and Marine Engineers' Guilds a full copy of the minority report of the Anti-Piracy Committee, from which it is abundantly clear that whatever differences may have arisen in the past, the officers and the shipowners are now in full agreement as to the means which are necessary to deal with the piracy evil and as to the alleged unsuitability of the measures now in force at Hongkong.

Hongkong Piracy Regulations Committee

Hongkong, Jan. 10.

Sir,

For the information of the Chamber I enclose copy of the Report of the representatives of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the combined Officers' Engineers' Guilds, appointed by His Excellency The Governor to consider certain proposals with regard to the prevention of Piracy.

Copies of my advices of to-day's date to Lieut. Commander Conway Hake, R.N.R., and the Honourable the Colonial Secretary are also enclosed

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) NEILAGE S. BROWN,
Representative of the
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

M. F. KEY, Esq.,
Secretary,
General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

Hongkong Piracy Regulations Committee

Hongkong, Jan. 10.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose copy of the Report of the representatives of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the combined Officers' and Engineers' Guilds appointed by His Excellency The Governor to consider certain proposals with regard to the Ordinance relating to the prevention of Piracy. The original of this Report has been duly forwarded to the Assistant Harbour Master with a request that it may be transmitted to the Hongkong Government at the earliest possible date.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) NEILAGE S. BROWN,
Representative of the
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hon. Sir Claud Severn, K.B.E., C.M.G., LL.D.,
Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.

Hongkong, 10th January 1925.

HONGKONG PIRACY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose report of the representatives of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the combined China Coast Officers' and Engineers' Guilds, appointed by His Excellency The Governor to consider certain proposals in regard to the prevention of piracy.

I shall feel obliged if this report may be transmitted to the Hongkong Government at the earliest possible date.

In view of the desirablity of giving publicity to the reason which led to the withdrawal of the above mentioned representatives from the meeting of the Piracy Regulations Committee held on 12th ulto., it is considered desirable that this report should be published in extenso at the earliest date, and I shall be glad to learn from you whether the publication of same meets with the Government's approval.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Sgd. Neilage S. Brown,
Representative of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Lieut. Commander Conway Hake, R.N.R., Assistant Harbour Master, Hongkong.

The Report

MINORITY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO CONSIDER CERTAIN PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO THE PREVENTION OF PIRACY.

PROTECTION OF BRITISH VESSELS FROM PIRACY.

We the minority members of the Committee appointed by His Excellency The Governor to enquire into certain further proposals with regard to the prevention of piracy have the honour to submit the following report and recommendations.

In September, 1924 The Honourable The Colonial Secretary wrote to The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, The Chinese Chamber of Commerce and The Combined China Coast Officers Guilds stating that "certain further proposals" with regard to the prevention of piracy were at present under consideration and asking each of such bodies to nominate a representative to serve on a Committee with certain Government officials to consider the proposals put forward and to make recommendation thereon to the Government.

The three bodies so named nominated Neilage Sharp Brown, Chau Tsun Nin and Tom Turnbull Laurenson respectively the signatories hereto as their nominees.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on Friday, December 5, 1924, at which the Assistant Harbour Master, Commander Conway Hake, R.N., presided.

Restricted Activities

It was explained by the Chairman at the outset that the "certain further proposals" which the Committee was appointed to consider were principally pro posals for the amendment of the Piracy Prevention Regulations, and that the Committee were not to be allowed to discuss the general question of piracy prevention apart from the regulations. In these circumstances the signatories knowing the general opinion of those whom they represented felt themselves compelled to refer the matter back to them before proceeding further with the discussion. The bodies referred to were of the opinion that the existing regulations were most unsatisfactory and that no revision of them would be effectual for the purpose of the suppression of piracy and that unless the whole subject was considered, and the avenue explored, no good purpose could be served by the signatories continuing on the Committee and that if wider discussion which such bodies contemplated was not to be allowed it would be better if their representatives should withdraw from the Committee and go thoroughly into the matter themselves and submit a minority report. At the adjourned meting of the Committee the Chairman again made it clear that the wider consideration was outside the scope of the Committee and the signatories hereto accordingly withdraw.

Although both the shipowners and the personnel on the ships from the outset have realized the many defects of the existing ordinance they have unquestionably given the system more than a fair trial. They cannot, however, continue to willingly subscribe to a system which from experience they are convinced is wrong.

The Regulation

It is strongly urged that it is the province of the Navy to protect commerce particularly British commerce against the depredations of pirates. Under the regulations the responsibility for the defence of the local mercantile marine is thrown upon the owners and the officers of each vessel. The idea of a merchant ship of the class plying in the Canton Delta or on the coast having "a citadel fortified garrisoned defended" (vide Report of Sui An Piracy Commission) is as impracticable as it is absurd. It is accepted as axiomatic that it is the duty of the master and his officers to defend their ship but it is submitted that adequate protection from piratical atacks from wtihin the ship is utterly impracticable in the case of vessels employed on the trades in question. Vessels constructed for commercial purposes to carry passengers and cargo from one port to another cannot be converted into fortresses. It is common ground that the element of surprise is always inevitably present in the case of such attacks. The most that can be hoped for or attempted is the defence of the bridge and engine room for a sufficient time to enable the officers to send out distress signals from the bridge.

The "Sui-an" Finding

The finding of the Commission appointed to enquire into the "Sui An" Piracy goes to show that if the then Piracy Prevention Regulations had been carried out to the letter and the strongest possible fight put up "the bridge could only have been held for a sufficient time to have robbed the attack of its element of surprise, and opportunity would have been furnished to inflict damage upon the attackers and to send up signals of distress. It is probable that the bridge could not have been finally held against the determined assault by a large party of armed men." With one exception every recent piratical attack from within the ship has been successful in spite of the existing Regulations. The exception referred to is the case of the "Tai Lee" in April, 1924. She was then the mother ship of her convoy and carried eight armed Indian guards in charge of two European sergeants, in addition to the six armed Indian guards attached to the vessel and signed on articles.

The pirates launched the attack upon the engine room and, control having been gained, they drew the fires with the intention of causing the vessel to drift ashore where a a considerable body of pirates well armed were waiting ready to loot the vessel and murder anyone who resisted.

Fortunately the vessel did not drift ashore, but was carried down mid-stream with the current. The pirates seeing that their object was defeated made no attack on the bridge but jumped over-board and swam to the shore. It is said that several were shot as they were swimming away but this is doubtful as it was a dark night and it was impossible to be certain of the results.

The "Sanning" another vessel of the convoy turned around and tried to stand by, but she could render no assistance whatever, in fact she only became an additional target for the rifles of the disappointed desperadoes on shore who fired at both vessels until they were out of range.

It is considered that if it is necessary to retain certain of the Regulations until Naval patrols (hereinafter referred to) are provided, it certainly is not necessary to stiffen the existing regulations but on the contrary they should be considerably modified and all that is required is that the bridge and the engine room and stokehold entrances should be protected, and the officers armed.

Grilles

The grilles are a real source of danger. They interfere with the access of the passengers to the boats and in all probability will be the cause of great loss of life in the event of a vessel carrying them incurring any maritime casualty. The Regulations so far as they relate to grilles are in direct opposition to the provisions of the merchant Shipping Acts. The Board of Trade requirements as to the Survey of Life Saving Appliances 1920 par. 160 are as follows:—"Proper provision must be made for access of passengers to the embarkation deck and for controlling and martialling them and finally embarking them in the lifeboats in the shortest possible time." The present requirements under the Piracy Prevention Regulations are to keep all passengers other than those of first class below the bridge deck, which in all river steamers is also the boat deck. In the case of river steamers all access from the main or lower deck is cut off from the next deck above or from the saloon deck by means of locked spar gratings across the companionway. Passengers in the second class accommodation on the saloon deck aft are separated from the first class pasengers forward and from the deck above by means of locked gratings and grilles. No officers or guards are below the bridge deck, that is the deck above those on which the majority of the pasengers (in many instances over 1000) are carried. In the event of a panic arising from fire collision or other maritime casualty the people below decks would be unable to reach the boat deck because of the locked grilles.

Officers Handicapped

The ships officers in the event of a collision would be fully occupied with their respective duties and therefore unable to attend to the unlocking of the grilles. If the guards had keys it is unlikely that they would have sufficient presence of mind or sufficient initiative to do anything of use. In some steamers which come within the purview of the Regulations there are something like 30 locks to unfasten before all the grilles can be opened. No means of releasing bolts simultaneously is feasible in ships of the class concerned. Furthermore owing to the grilles the crews of these vessels would have the greatest difficulty in getting to the boats themselves. In the event of an outbreak of fire or a collision and a serious loss of life occurring owing to passengers being penned below, who would be held responsible: the Hongkong Government who framed the Regulations or the Owners and their Officers who were compeled to carry them out?

Indian Guards

There are approximately 900 Indian Guards employed at a cost to the shipping companies of some $270,000 per annum. Neither owners whose property is at stake, nor officers whose lives are at stake have the slightest confidence in them. Their training is inadequate and their discipline is bad and their bad discipline affects the discipline of the other members of the crew. These guards although nominally on the ship's articles are paid through the police and consider themselves as police and resent receiving orders from the ship's officers. In an appendix hereto a number of cases is quoted, showing the bad discipline and inefficiency of the Guards. This list of cases is by no means exhaustive but merely illustrative of the matter raised in this paragraph.

It is the opinion of both the owners and the officers (as it is the generally accepted view all the world over) that the master of a vessel should have complete control over all members of his crew at all times when the vessel is at sea, and it is felt strongly that the police element should be entirely eliminated and that any regulations or assistance received by a ship in the British Mercantile Marine should come from the Navy and in certain matters from the Harbour department and not from the police. Whilst in port the Indian guards consider themselves as being off and they take no part in searching the people who come on board whilst the vessel is in port. It is the unanimous opinion of ship owners and officers that the Guards could and should be dispensed with from the ships.

Police Searches

The searching and examination of passengers embarking on vessels about to leave the colony is a proper function of the police. The police searchers however are inadequate. The number of cases of ships which have been pirated by passengers who embarked with their arms is well known. Coastal and river steamers are frequently in Hongkong for 12 hours at a time and during the whole of this time cargo and baggage is being discharged and loaded. The ship's officers cannot possibly be expected to search the people who are constantly coming and going yet the police only come on duty on the various wharves some two to three hours before the ship is due to sail. It is submitted that an adequate number of police should be on duty on the wharves the whole time, also that the Water police should be strengthened and provided with additional suitable harbour craft to be used in supervising and examining passengers embarking on vessels in the stream. At present police supervision and examination of such passengers is hopelessly inadequate. This doubtless will entail a considerable increase in the strength of the police force and consequently increased expense. It is submitted however that it is as much the duty of the Government to protect life and property on board ship by taking precautionary measures whilst ships are in port as it is to protect life and property ashore.

Whampoa to Canton

Owing to the silting up of the Tai Mei Barrier a number of vessels have to be lightened at Whampoa and the cargo so taken out has to be carried from thence to Canton in native craft.

The greatest difficulties are being experienced in inducing the owners of native craft to carry such cargoes owing to their fear of pirates.

The regulations of course cannot apply to such craft and the only defence that can be afforded to such craft must be supplied by patrols.

The Convoy System

It is not contended that the convey system has proved entirely valueless, but experience has shown that it is a serious interference with trade as the speed of the convoy is necessarily reduced to the speed of the slowest vessel in the convoy. The result is obviously unfair to those companies which have spent large sums in improving their vessels to cope with increased competition and also tends to stop further development.

Wireless, Etc.

It is considered desirable that the Government should obtain from the owners of all vessels carrying a Hongkong passenger certificate trading in the danger zone an assurance that the necessary steps are being taken to provide and equip such vessels with wireless telegraphy. A reasonable time should be allowed for installation and the education of operators.

Continuous Discharge Papers and also 24 hours Articles are considered desirable and it is recommended that a special committee should be formed to go fully into the matter with the Harbour Master.

General

Speaking generally defence from within can never of itself be ultimately successful. The utmost that can be hoped for is the defence of the bridge and engine room until signals of distress can be communicated to a patrolling vessels in the neighborhood and it is submitted that with adequate patrols all that is necessary in merchant vessels is protection of the bridge and engine room and the arming of officers. Once pirates know that although they may be able to overcome resistance in the ship itself they will not be able to get away, piracy will cease.

Patrols

The suppression of piracy in the adjacent waters is essentially a duty of His Majesty's Navy. An efficient service of patrols would not merely protect commerce from attacks from without but would also act as absolute deterrent to attacks from within.

In a speech made by him in Shanghai (1924) Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson stated that the placing of armed guards on river boats was of little practical service and that increased patrols were in his opinion the only remedy, and that he was taking steps to increase the patrols on the Yangtze.

The signatories hereto have taken up the question of Naval patrols with the Senior Naval Officer West River Patrols and his report is with the approval of the Commodore appended hereto.

Two observations only need be made on the substance of that Report.

First that it would appear from the Report that that portion of H. M. Naval forces which is stationed in adjacent waters is not adequate for the many and varied duties which devolve upon it and second that the report deals practically entirely with river traffic.

It is urged that a system of patrols on the lines indicated by the officer in question and a coastal patrol within the danger zone to be formulated by the Naval authorities should be instituted at once. If the estimates for His Majesty's Navy do not permit of the immediate construction of the indicated craft by the Navy it is urged that the Hongkong Government might fittingly apply to this purpose the surplus shipping control funds as yet unappropriated to any particular purpose, or if these are unavailable for the time being, in the interests of the general trade of the Colony the Hongkong Government should accept responsibility.

It is not within the competence of the signatories to this report to

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elaborate a comprehensive scheme of naval patrols.

It is however most strongly urged that an adequate patrol system on the lines suggested by the Senior Naval Officer West River Patrols and a coastal patrol are the only solutions of the existing state of affairs and that the Hongkong Government should therefore at the earliest possible moment seek the advice and assistance of H. M. Naval Authorities at Hongkong in formulating a scheme, in which event the signatories hereto will if invited be willing to render any assistance in their power.

Summarized briefly, if the guards are withdrawn, grilles removed, (except those around the engine room and stokehold entrance, and bridge) an adequate fleet of patrol craft provided, and police supervision, both ashore and in the harbour materially re-inforced, there should be little to fear from the possibility of piratical attacks in the future.

While the Navy is primarily responsible for the suppression of piracy—in these and other waters—if the best results are to be obtained it is of vital importance that they should obtain the maximum co-operation and support not only from the shipowners and those who man the ships but also from the Harbour department and the police. The activities of the latter, however, should be confined entirely to protective measures ashore and to the examination of passengers prior to embarkation. That the Local Government have not kept the Naval authorities fully posted of information in their possession is exemplified in an incident which took place on the 2nd January of this year. It appears from information received by the Police that 20 pirates were supposed to have left Hongkong by an unknown ship for Shanghai their object being to attack an unknown vessel on the return journey from Shanghai to Hongkong. The shipping companies were requested by the police to warn the Masters of steamers trading on that particular route. As the information was somewhat meagre, on enquiring from the Naval authorities as to whether they could provide anything of a more definite nature it transpired that the police had not passed on their information to the Navy. They knew nothing about it! The foregoing only serves to illustrate the need for closer co-operation between the Local Government and the Naval Authorities, and, to ensure the greater effectiveness of such co-operation, the appointment of a Naval representative on any committee convened to deal with matters relating to piracy prevention is most desirable.

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Representative Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Sgd. T. N. Chau,
Representative The Chinese Chamber of Commerce.
Sgd. T. T. Laurenson,
Representative Combined China Coast Officers & Engineers Guilds.

APPENDICES TO MINORITY REPORT

NOTES ON PIRACY AND ITS PREVENTION. BY THE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF WEST RIVER PATROLS.

Present System

At present shipping is protected against piracy by the following methods.

(a) British gunboats. These are distributed about the rivers and the Delta according to signs and information received. They are a mobile force which can be switched to any area required. Piracy suppression is by no means the only duty they have to perform. The Flag has to be shown and British interests in general protected.

(b) Armed Launches. At present these are tied down to convoying the Hongkong-Kongmun river steamers. They run on a regular time-table and convoy ships through the most dangerous areas. In between their convoy work they patrol adjacent waterways. As long as they are with a convoy no piratical attack is likely to be made but I am convinced that they can be far more efficiently employed with equally good protection to the river steamers and far better protection to the many small craft under the British flag if convoying is abolished and efficient patrolling instituted instead. At present every pirate and local inhabitant knows exactly when the convoy and its guard launch will pass and can make their plans to pirate a tow before or afterwards in perfect safety.

(c) Armed Guards on board ships. When piracy became serious it was obvious that some means of protection had to be provided and against internal piracy in particular. The danger of any well-found ship being successfully attacked from the outside was, and in my opinion is, very small indeed, provided she was in the hands of efficient officers. I should be very sorry to try an attack on any of the river steamers by means of launches or junks as long as the river steamer was under weigh and under control and the officers wide awake.

It therefore came to a question of convoys or armed guards. To convoy the regular river steamer traffic and also the sea-going ship traffic to Canton and Kongmun means a very large number of fast convoy craft continously employed. Also as the speed of the convoy is that of its slowest ship a great deal of inconvenience is caused to the better found vessels. On the other hand to let all ships proceed independently and yet be safe means a large number of armed guards on each ship.

At the time no convoying launches were available and it was found quite impracticable to get the necessary Naval Officers and ratings to man any large number of launches. I therefore suggested that the cheapest and safest method to adopt was to make the Canton and Kongmun River Steamers sail in convoy, a large and efficient armed guard being placed in one steamer in each convoy. These were to be armed with machine guns and be available not only to protect their own vessel but also to go to the help of any vessel belonging to the convoy if attacked. This system was adopted and continues to the present time. It has certainly been effective in preventing piratical attacks but it has also aroused a good deal of discontent amongst ships' officers and owners who do not like the guards or the delay caused to the better found ships.

(d) Grilles. The original system of grilles was greatly extended. Here again whilst undoubtedly very valuable against internal piracy the extended use of grilles is inconvenient from many of the officers' and owners' point of view. Also it has the serious defect that in case of a collision any hitch in opening the necessary grilles may result in enormous loss of life, although the obvious retort to that argument is that unless a river steamer can be beached at once or outside assistance is at hand, the loss of life is bound to be great in any case. Still the mere fact that the passengers would feel that they were cooped up like rats would precipitate a panic and hinder the ship's staff.

(e) Police Inspection and searches. Is undoubtedly most valuable and should be continued. Practically all attempted piracies have been on outward bound ships from Hongkong and strict searching at that end is a necessity. The Customs at Kongmun are also very efficient in supervising their end.

Alternative

In my opinion the only alternative to the present system is to increase the number of armed launches available. If another 5 armed launches were provided and manned by R.N. Officers and men then the carrying of large armed guards and the sailing in convoy could be abolished. The system of grilles could also be very much decreased.

With the present 4 armed launches plus 5 additional armed launches a system of efficient patrols could be instituted covering the Pearl River and from Wangmun to Kongmun. The number would not be sufficient to cover the West River above Kaukong unless the patrol line elsewhere was weakened. It would also leave the open *sea* gap between Hongkong waters and the Bocca Tigris forts and Wangmun, but as river steamers are generally in sight of each other in these parts a successful attempt to pirate them there should be very difficult. It would leave the Macao traffic to itself as at present.

With a permanent patrol as suggested not only would river steamers and seagoing traffic be as safe or safer than at present but all the enormous tow traffic would be a great deal better protected. It must never be forgotten that there is an enormous trade carried on in junk bottoms towed by launches. Many of these launches fly the British flag and a very large proportion of the traffic on these two main routes is en route to or from Hongkong. Once this patrol was in working order I consider that

(1) Sailing in convoy could be abolished.

(2) Large armed guards on board ships abolished.

(3) The grille system reduced to protection of the bridge and Engine Room and cutting off the 1st class from the remainder.

Some armed protection would still be necessary on board and a proper system of signals to attract the attention of the patrols whilst passing through the intervals between patrol vessels instituted for use in case of need.

One great source of weakness in all attempts to deal with internal piracy is the personnel of the ships. The hands of the Captains should be strengthened as much as possible and inefficient officers got rid of. It is criminal to trust the lives of passengers to officers who are not always in a fit state to deal with any situation that may arise. Similarly the crews should be carefully picked and a proper system of discharge books instituted with a certain system of identification The compradores have a great deal too much control over matters which should be in the captains' hands and the captains' tenure of their appointments on the second class steamers is far too precarious to expect a really efficient and suitable officer to accept command of such steamers.

Indian Guard

February 11, 1924. S.S. "Wing on.". Guard No. 359 whilst asleep on duty dropped his rifle down the stokehold.

February 13, 1924. Guard No. 281 discharged after having been under the influence of drugs for 48 hours.

February 16, 1924. Guard No. 52 incited the other guards to refuse to carry out their orders and argued with the chief officer with regard to his hours. On February 18, this guard left the ship without notice to the captain or the chief officer.

February 29, 1924. Guard No. 607 was drunk when the vessel left Hongkong.

March 6, 1924. Guard No. 428 was found asleep in a saloon passenger's chair 45 minutes after going on duty.

March 16, 1924. Guard No. 607 was drunk whilst on duty in Hongkong and interfered with the crew, compradore's staff and the purser.

February 1924. M. V. "Fook Sing." The captain reported a sergeant to Capt. Bloxham for insubordination, insolence and mutinous conduct. The sergeant was transferred to another ship.

March 7, 1924. S.S. "Hydrangea." Rolla Khan, Indian Guard on this vessel, was charged before the Marine Court with being absent from duty. This guard had been granted one hour's leave whilst the vessel was in Swatow and he failed to return before the vessel sailed. This guard was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

March 11, 1924. S.S. "Sui Tai." Guard No. 650 was at 10.50 a.m. found fast asleep whilst on duty on the bridge either under the influence of drugs or drink. This guard had previously been reported.

March 19, 1924. S.S. "Szechuen." After leaving Canton all the Indian guards who should have been on duty were found asleep in their bunks.

April 12, 1924. S.S. "Chung On." Three guards who should have been on duty were found by the captain asleep in the mess room. On the previous Tuesday one of the guard failed to join the ship before leaving Hongkong.

April 20, 1924. S.S. "Borneo." Two Indian guards went ashore at 8 p.m. the previous evening and failed to turn up although the captain kept back the departure of the vessel until 6.35 a.m.

April 29, 1924. S.S. "Kanchow. Galem Ali, Indian guard on the above vessel, charged at the Marine Court for absenting himself from his ship without leave. Inspector Shannon said that the guard reported that he had missed his boat at 10.45 a.m. on the 24th. He said that it was the third time he had missed his boat in two months and he had been dealt with departmentally. The defendant told the Harbour-master that he went ashore at noon on the 23rd and was due back at midnight but could only get across by hiring a sampan for $3 and he could not afford that. He waited till morning when the boat had left. Inspector Shannon said that the man had a bad record. The defendant imprisoned for one month with hard labour.

November 10, 1924. S.S. "Suochow.". The guards were ordered to go through firing practice in accordance with the regulations. Three of the guards completed their firing practice. It was then observed that the fourth guard had not fired but his place was taken by one of the guards who had already finished his practice. The fourth guard was then ordered to go through the firing practice when he stated that he had no knowledge whatever of firearms.

December 13, 1924. S.S. "Taming." An attempt to smuggle arms on this vessel was discovered by the officers. Several Chinese suspected of being concerned were chased by the ship's officers, and two Guards Nos. 383 and 386 were standing near the gangway by which the fugitives, escaped made no attempt to arrest them or bar their progress.

December 22, 1924. S.S. "Fatshan." At 11 p.m. the second officer was in charge of the bridge. The European sergeant in charge of the police guard walked on to the bridge. He was told by the second officer he was not allowed on the bridge. The sergeant then charged the second officer with being drunk. The second officer immediately sent for the captain and the chief officer who ordered the Sergeant off the bridge. The matter was reported to the Captain Superintendent of Police. The second officer was subsequently asked by the Police Department if he would accept an apology.

BRITISH ENGINEERING STANDARDS

Additional Specifications Issued by the Association: Important Data for Engineers: Interesting Notes on Fuel and Oil

We have received from the China Committee of the British Engineering Standards Association the following specifications:—

Stranded Conductors

British Standard Specification No. 125-1924. Hard-drawn Copper Solid and Stranded circular Conductors for Overhead Power Transmission purposes.

The data in this specification are based on the results of extensive tests on hard-drawn copper conductors carried out by the British Electrical & Allied Industries Research Association and also by the National Physical Laboratory, and are of considerable interest in that they are the first authoritative data to be published in this country on hard-drawn copper conductors. Four tables are included in the specification, two of these dealing with solid (single) conductors, and two with stranded conductors. In each case two series of standard sizes are given, a primary series for use whenever possible and a secondary series for use when it is impracticable to use the primary sizes. The Committee responsible for this specification has adopted these two series of sizes in the hope that the secondary sizes will eventually fall into disuse and that the primary sizes will then be used in all but very special cases. Mechanical and electrical tests are specified for all sizes, as are also the weights per 1,000 yards and per mile. This specification is of special importance in view of the Regulations for Overhead Lines prescribed by the Electricity Commissioners, wherein it is stated that "all line conductors at the time of erection shall comply, as regards elongation, breaking load and elasticity, with the specification of the British Engineering Standards Association then in force."

Standard Spanners

Dimensions for British standard spanners, publication No. 192-1924.

The B.E.S.A. has just published Publication No. 192-1924, dimensions of British standard spanners, in which are given all dimensions necessary for setting out spanners to the new British standard design, up to 2" nominal size. Dimensions for British standard spanners were published in the Association's Report No. 28 in 1908, but owing to criticisms on the design in that report it has been re-considered and the British standard spanner now recommended is based on a design which has been well tried out in practice.

The table of dimensions is preceded by notes regarding the angle between spanner head and shank and the method of marking, which provides for marking with both the B.S.W. and B.S.F. bolt sizes.

Heavy Oil Engine Fuel

British Standard specifications for fuels for heavy-oil engines. (Petroleum and Shale Oils) (No. 209-1924).

These specifications are some of the first fruits of the Sectional Committee on Petroleum Products recently set up by the British Engineering Standards Association. Specifications are given for four grades of fuel oil, the first grade being a gas oil and the other three being non-distillate oils, all classes of heavy-oil engines thus being catered for by one or other of the four grades. Users of heavy-oil engines should satisfy themselves, by test or otherwise, which of the four grades of oil specified can most satisfactorily be utilized in any given engine, and the corresponding specification should then be adopted. There are one or two points of special interest in these specifications, as follows:—

(a) No mention of specific gravity is made. In the past many specifications have called for a definite viscosity, but the conclusion has been reached that it is quite unnecessary to specify the specific gravity of a fuel oil provided the viscosity characteristics are clearly defined.

(b) The sulphur content is not specified. While drawing up these specifications every effort was made to obtain evidence to prove that the harmful effects attributed to oils in certain cases were due to the sulphur in the oil. Pending the production of such evidence it has been decided that, in the case of fuel oils for heavy-oil engines as distinct from fuels for use under boilers, a test for sulphur unnecessarily increases the cost of the oil.

The specifications will be revised, if necessary, in 12 months' time.

The methods of testing the oil given in these specifications are those adopted by the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, and are described in detail.

Lubricating Oils

British standard classification of pure mineral lubricating oils. Publication No. 210-1924.

Following the issue of the British standard specifications for fuel oils for heavy-oil engines, the British Engineering Standards Association has now published a B.S. classification of pure mineral oils.

This classification is intended to be a broad guide to users of pure mineral lubricating oils to enable them to describe their wants in a more precise manner than is now frequently done. The meaning of the terms "light," "medium," "heavy," etc., as applied to lubricating oils is clearly defined in terms of definite ranges of viscosity, thus removing all doubt that may exist in the minds of users of oils as to whether these terms refer to the viscosity or the specific gravity of the oil. Typical specifications for each type and grade of oil are given, but it is not intended that these specifications should be used as purchasing specifications. The classification has been made under four main heads, as follows:—

(a) Machinery and engine oils (pale or red).
(b) Internal-combustion engine oils (pale or red).
(c) Steam cylinder oils (dark).
(d) Steam cylinder oils (red).

Oils containing fatty oils have not been included.

Extensive notes are given indicating the purposes for which each grade and type of oil is best suited, and full details are given for the testing of the oils, the methods of testing described being those recommended by the Institution of Petroleum Technologists.

This classification should prove very useful as a guide in drawing up specifications for oils for particular classes of work, for which purpose the typical specification given for the corresponding type of oil should, if necessary, be narrowed down to suit the purpose in view, and additional clauses added setting forth the special characteristics required.

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ETCHINGS AND ENGRAVINGS OF THE OLD MASTERS

How the Work Is Done and Some of Its Greatest Exponents Past and Present

Before the American Women's Club on Tuesday afternoon Mr. L. W. C. Lorden delivered a fascinating lecture, on "Etchings and Engravings of the Old Masters." He began by describing the different processes and then spoke of some of the greatest exponents of the art. The lecture, which we give in full, was illustrated by lantern slides and by prints from the lecturer's collection, one of which is reproduced here.

Engravings may be divided into two classes:—(1) Engraving in relief. (2) Engraving in intaglio. The first is generally done on wood when the engravings are called wood cuts. In this method the block is a stamp and it is only the raised portions which take the ink, like the rubber stamps everyone is familiar with. This is the oldest method of printing pictures.

For the second a highly polished plate is used, generally of copper, on which the lines forming the picture are made by cutting grooves in the copper. When the plate is inked the ink collects only in the grooves and not on the highly polished surface so that when a sheet of paper is pressed upon the plate the grooves only are reproduced. The principal tool used is the graver or burin. The engraver holds the graver between his thumb and second finger, resting the first finger on the blade and with the wooden handle against the palm. Holding the plate with the left hand on a pad so that it can be easily turned, the point of the graver is pressed into the plate and pressed forward to cut the line required. If the graver is properly held the result will be a curl of metal on either side of the line. This curl is called the burr and is removed by a scraper. If a line has to be erased the exact position of it is marked out on the back of the plate and the line knocked up from behind with a hammer and punch and then rubbed down with a burnisher.

What is Etching

An etching is when the lines on the plate instead of being cut with a graver are eaten out with an acid. The plate is highly polished with oil-rubber and chalk and then covered with the etching ground which is wax gum or resin. It is applied by heating the plate and then bringing the ball of wax gum or resin in contact with it through the porous silk which it is wrapped in. Acid will not eat into the wax, but wherever the wax is removed the acid will attack the copper so the etcher scratches the wax with a needle wherever he wants a line.

Before the etcher starts work on the design he usually blackens the wax or ground as it is called with smoke from a taper as, unless this is done, owing to the wax being transparent he cannot see the lines. As a rule the design is transferred on to the ground, though I have seen etchers work direct on to the ground.

It is often necessary to have some portions of the picture eaten out more than others so that they will print stronger. This is done by stopping the eating out after a few minutes and then coating the lighter parts again with wax or varnish to protect them from the acid and then applying the acid again, which will continue to eat out the darker parts of the picture.

The etcher will first take a proof impression to see what the picture is like, and may then decide to put more work on it and to do this he will apply another coat of wax which in this case must of course not be blackened as he will want to see on the plates the parts already etched.

The difference in appearance between an etching and an engraving is that an etching generally is produced with many fine lines and generally has a greater appearance of freedom owing to the ease with which the lines can be produced with the needle. This freedom has led to etching being more popular with artists, with the result that although there are many good etching artists to-day the engraving artist is almost extinct. The engraved line also is different from the etched line as it tapers at the extremities while the etched line is the same width at the ends.

Dry Point

The etcher often produces lines on his plate by a method called dry point, for which a special tool is used. It is used after the acid has been applied, and consists of scratching a line on the plate, which produces a considerable burr, more than is produced even if a graver were used. This burr is not removed and when printed the burr gives the dry point line with a luminous tone. It gives a beautiful effect but will not stand more than 25 prints being taken from it.

Modern etchers also sometimes engrave lines on their etched plates. In the 18th century engravers often etched in light lines the design onto a plate and then engraved it.

Tone engravings are those in which no lines are used and they have the appearance of a chalk or wash drawing. The best known method is the mezzotints.

Mezzotints

A mezzotint is produced by roughening the surface of the copper plate by means of a rocker, the end of which has a lot of fine teeth. As this curved end of the rocker is worked all over the plate it produces a number of indentations, each with a burr, so that when inked it would print with a multitude of fine dots producing a rich quality tone over the whole plate. To produce the picture the artist, by means of the scraper, removes the burr where the lights are to appear, much as in a charcoal drawing. Light tones may be produced by removing the shaded portions with a piece of rubber.

Aqua tints are somewhat like mezzotints, but are produced by dusting the plate with powdered resin or asphalte and then heating the plate to cause the powder to adhere, thus producing a dry grain on the plate which prints somewhat like the mezzotint. The light portions are produced by scraping away the grain.

Paper is often a guide to the age of an engraving, the earliest engravers using hand-made linen rag paper rather dense in quality. About 1620 Japanese paper was imported which has a rich yellow tone and silky surface. Rembrandt found it excellent for etchings and etchers have used it ever since.

It is doubtful if any invention has ever affected the world so much, as the invention of paper. It was the appearance of printed books which made the revival of learning possible, and on this account many historians regard the printing press as responsible for the renaissance.

The First Printers

It was in 1477 that Caxton started printing in London, but to Guttenberg of Mainz is generally given the honour of being the first printer. It is now, however, generally recognized that Coster was printing in 1446 in Holland before Guttenberg was printing in Germany. Printing, however, was known for far before this, how far one cannot say; but manuscripts of the 12th century have been found with the initial letters printed from wooden stamps. But the printing press was of little use until a suitable material for printing on was discovered and it was paper that made this possible.

The honour of this great invention belongs to the Chinese, who first made it from bamboo. In the 8th century the Chinese made war on the Arabs, who defeated them and amongst the prisoners taken were some Chinese paper-makers from whom the Arabs learnt the secret.

In the reconquest of Spain the Christians captured some paper mills but made little use of the discovery until the end of the 13th century when the Italians recognized its importance and at the beginning of the 15th century paper was being manufactured cheaply enough in Germany to make the printing of books practicable.

What Paper Meant

To you who live in an age satiated with paper it is difficult to understand how dull the world must have been without it. Learning merely trickled through mind to mind and for news one had to rely principally on chance travellers. Books were extremely rare and many appear to have been made rather to be looked at than read, for most of the space was often occupied by beautiful borders and decorative initial letters, probably because so few could read that the use of a book was often to be looked at and give an appearance of culture rather than be read. Pictures which conveyed ideas to those unable to read were greatly appreciated, but they were so costly that only the rich could afford them.

Paper not only gave to the people books which few of them could appreciate as they could not read, but it gave to them cheap pictures which they could appreciate, and caused them to think and so assisted the revival of learning. The earliest pictures were woodcuts, that is pictures printed from wooden stamps, and were produced at the convents and sold at the shrines of saints to various pilgrims, who naturally liked to take back to their homes souveniers of their visit. These early woodcuts had little artistic merit but they achieved one useful purpose, they opened the eyes of the goldsmiths to the profits to be obtained by selling pictures. Now the goldsmiths decorated their work by engraving designs on gold and other metals. There was nothing new in this for the engraved line has always been one of the simplest and universal modes of decoration, but it was not until paper came into use that it was discovered that an impression could be taken off an engraved plate. Printing from relief blocks is therefore older than printing from an intaglio or engraved plate.

In the beginning the engravers appear by their work to have been goldsmiths attempting to be picture-makers and quite unable to grasp the possibilities of black and white. Martin Schongauer, however, who worked at Colmar in about 1445 was an artist. His pictures are simple and not crowded out with the goldsmiths' ornamentation so that justly, until the coming of Durer, his influence was paramount amongst the northern engravers and extended even into Italy although Anon is the Italian master of this period.

The engravings of the 15th century artists although of interest are not the works of masters. The artists did not truly understand the possibilities of black and white and they were merely preparing the way for the great masters to come.

The Three Masters

At the end of the century, however, appeared three of the greatest engravers the world has ever seen. Albert Durer of Germany, Lucas van Leydan of Holland and Marc Antonio Ramondi of Italy.

The first, Albert Durer, is regarded as the greatest line engraver the world has ever produced and no artist has even ever rivalled him in wood cut work.

It is unfortunate for the other two that they worked at the same period as Durer for they were great masters, but recognizing a superior in Durer they lost a lot of their individuality in imitating his styles.

It is as well for me to state here that the work of the early engravers was original, that is they designed and engraved their pictures and did not confine themselves to making engraved copies of paintings.

The people wanted pictures and as few could afford paintings, the engravings, or prints as they came to be called, sold well and the engravers were on the whole prosperous. They or their assistants took as many prints as they could until the plates were worn out. The examples of their work which are exhibited for you here are such prints and have all been examined and pronounced as genuine by Gutehunst of St. James, London and Berlin, who is the greatest authority on the 16th century prints. The genuine are determined by microscopic examination and comparison.

Albert Durer

I now propose to speak about Albert Durer and his work. Albert Durer's father was a goldsmith who came from Hungary and settled at Nuremberg in Germany. He taught his son Albert the goldsmith craft, as well as reading and writing.

The elder Durer took a great pride in his son as he worked well, but he was not well pleased when Durer wished to become a painter. However at last Albert Durer was apprenticed for three years to Michael Wolgemuth, a painter at Nuremberg, who is principally known for his woodcut illustrations of the Chronicles of the World, a book printed in 1493. I possess one of these illustrations which represents the Pope Aeneas Pius who became pope in 1458 and also Fredric III who was Emperor when the book was printed. Up to that time the woodcuts were stiff and the figures were uncouth. A comparison with Durer's woodcut of "Three Bishops" will show how great was the change Durer produced in wood-

Illustrating LORDEN'S *"Etchings and Engravings of the Old Masters."*

THE THREE BISHOPS

A WOODCUT BY ALBERT DURER DONE IN HIS BEST PERIOD, ABOUT THE YEAR 1510. DURER IS REGARDED AS UNRIVALLED IN WOODCUT WORK. "THE THREE BISHOPS" IS PROBABLY THE BEST WOODCUT ILLUSTRATION EVER PRODUCED.

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cuts alone. This woodcut is Durer at his best and a noted black and white artist once looking at this print told me that it made him feel so ashamed of his own work that he felt like giving up black and white work. Durer's finest engraving is "The Knight, Death and the Devil."

At the end of his apprenticeship Durer, now a painter, travelled about probably doing odd jobs. He visited Colmar where he probably saw the engravings of Martin Schongauer, which possibly inspired him to try his hand at similar work, in which his goldsmith training would be of great assistance to him.

The Journey to Venice

In 1505 Durer had made a name as a great engraver and had to visit Venice to take action against Marc Antonio Ramondi who was imitating his prints and even forging his name to them.

At Venice Durer was treated well and employed to paint the altar piece of the Fondacio dei Tedeschi while Titian painted the frescos on the outside.

At Venice Durer made friends with the great painter Giovanni Bellini who was then an old man. His wonderful skill amazed Bellini who came to the conclusion that Durer had some mechanical device which enabled him to draw lines so close together but never touching. One day he asked Durer to show him this mechanical device and in reply Durer drew for him a lock of hair with such skill that Bellini said if he had not seen it done he would not have believed it possible.

The Venetians treated Durer well and gave him more orders than he could execute, but he was drawn to his native town although, as he wrote to a friend, "Here I am a gentleman, at home only a parasite."

Anything out of the ordinary attracted Durer and he often journeyed long distances to make drawings of such objects. He made an engraving of a horse which he believed to be the largest horse that ever was and another of the smallest horse.

He also recorded all curious events such as the following note he made:—"The most wonderful thing I ever saw occurred in the year 1503 when crosses fell upon many people and especially on children rather than on elder people. Amongst others I saw one of the former which I have represented below. It had fallen into Eyrer's maids shift as she was sitting in the house at the back of Pirkheoners. She was so troubled about it that she wept and cried aloud for she feared that she must die because of it."

In 1520 Durer, with his wife and her maid, visited the Netherlands where every town appears to have honoured him. He kept a journal at this time and when in Antwerp wrote the following entry:—"Master Lucas, who engraves in copper, asked me as his guest. He is a little man, born at Leyden in Holland, he was at Antwerp. I have drawn with metal point the portrait of Master Lucas van Leyden."

Van Leyden and Ramondi

Very little is known about Lucas van Leyden except that he was the son of a painter. Up to the time he met Durer he chiefly attempted simple scenes, often farmyard scenes around him, which were charming. Durer appears, however, to have greatly influenced him and he then changed a good deal and tried to imitate Durer's style.

Marc Antonio Ramondi was born at Bologna in 1480 where he served his time with a painter and goldsmith. His work is very inferior to Durer's in conception but he was a skilful engraver. As a beginner he copied trees and figures for his pictures from Durer and later on copied the whole picture and signed them with Durer's initial. Durer visited Venice to prevent this, but he then took to copying Durer's pictures and signing them as his own original work. Later on he went to live at Rome where he developed a style of his own, which has attracted a lot of immitators as it is a style which smaller men can grasp. The Death of Lucretia is an example of this later work. After the sacking of Rome in 1527 Ramondi is not heard of any more.

The Little Masters

After Durer come the Little Masters, so called because they engraved only small plates, some being only as large as postage stamps. Barthel and Hans Sebald Beham and Penez were Durer's pupils in Nuremberg and are all excellent engravers. They were all three banished from Nuremberg as being "godless" men.

Penez imitated the style of Marc Antonio Ramondi, which was probably due to his visit to Italy when he was banished from Nuremberg. Like Marc Antonio Ramondi he used dots to obtain the lighter parts of his shading.

Next in importance to the Bethem as they wore down. Painters who is also a Little Master and was a German goldsmith. I have in my collection two examples of his work. He had a curious affection for shining folds of drapery.

The period of the little masters, of whom there are many I have not mentioned, extended to about 1550 when the art of engraving declined. This was not due to the lack of demand but rather to the reverse. Everyone wanted engravings, which gave rise to business men taking it up and employing hacks to engrave plates from which they took the prints, recutting them as they wore down. Painters also found they could make money by reproducing their paintings as engravings and they therefore employed hack engravers who worked to their orders and obeyed their instructions. These causes lowered the tone of the engravers and their originality.

William Rogers was the first English engraver. He was a goldsmith who in 1589 engraved a portrait of Queen Elizebeth which like all goldsmith work is overloaded with ornament.

The Rise of Etching

With the end of the Little Masters and decline of original engravers there arose, beginning with the Little Etchers, the art of original etching. Although Durer had etched one or two plates, it was Reni who inspired and started at Bologna the first real school of etching. One of the first etchers of note is Claud Gellee or Claude Lorrain, 1640, whose landscape pictures are in almost every national collection. He was a boy in a pastrycook's shop and later on became servant in Rome to a landscape painter. His etchings are rather copies of nature than creative work. In several of his etchings as in his paintings there is that expression of atmosphere which made his name famous; unfortunately, however, most of his etchings are spoilt by bad biting.

The first great etcher is Sir Antony van Dyck who brought portrait etching to the highest point it has ever attained. His style is open line work with the face marvellously modelled with bold dotted work. He attempted very little light and shade.

In his best work he concentrates on the face, the rest of the figure being indicated by a few simple lines. The public, however, did not appreciate this and as van Dyck aimed at success he had the detail on the figure filled in, probably by assistants. In my collection I have his etching of his friend Judicus Momper a painter of Antwerp. Van Dyck put a mountain in the background because his friend was a painter of mountains.

Rembrandt the Unrivalled

Rembrandt, son of a well-to-do miller of Leyden, has rivals as a painter, but as an etcher he stands alone as the world's greatest etcher without even a rival until America produced Whistler. The marvellous light and shade show not only great skill with the etching needle but present such difficulties in biting that only the astonishing technical skill of Rembrandt could overcome.

In Rembrandt's time every artist of note visited Italy. Rembrandt despised this, holding that he could see quite enough beauty to last him a life time from his own back door. From 1630 to 1640 Rembrandt used only the etching needle, and his work is careful but timid. He then began to use the dry point more and more and his work increased in vigour until the dry point was used almost as much as the etching needle.

Rembrandt was fond of dressing in oriental costumes and etching portraits thus of himself. The one in my collection is one of these. Christ with the sick around Him receiving little children is the world's master-piece in etching and once seen is never forgotten. Prints of this now fetch £2,000.

Ostade of Haarlem in etching is more painter than etcher. Probably he preferred painting to etching. His work is good and if he had persevered in it he would probably have been a great etcher as he understood the medium.

Etchers to-day do excellent work and do not appear to be carried away by eccentricities like so many painters to-day whose work is so strange that it is difficult to understand the meaning.

Whistler's Genius

As this is an American Club I feel I cannot do better than conclude by showing you an etching by the greatest etcher of modern times, Whistler.

Whistler was the son of a major in the American army, in which service Whistler started his career. Owing to his talent for drawing he was employed in making charts which contained views of the coast line. His notes in the margins of the charts were the cause of his leaving the American army and going to Paris as an art student. In Paris he etched a few plates which attracted considerable attention, the principal one being himself sketching, surrounded by a lot of ragged children. He then settled in Chelsea. His work progressed in a directly opposite way to Rembrandt. Whereas Rembrandt started with using the etching needle only and then introduced the dry point more and more, Whistler started in a bold vigorous style with plenty of dry point, and then used less and less dry point until finally he relied on the etching needle only. Whistler is regarded as almost as great an etcher as Rembrandt, in the technical work, and in light and shade he also knew exactly what to leave out. He, however, lacked the great humanity of Rembrandt. Rembrandt etched because he could not help it, it was his mode of expressing his emotion: he did an etching of his wife when she was dying and another when she was dead representing death, separating the newly wedded couple.

CHINA'S SKIES FOR FEBRUARY

1 First quarter (moon) ☽, 0.29 a.m.

3 Occultation of Aldebaran, in Taurus' 7,17 a.m.
Mercury and Venus in conjunction, 3.30 p.m. Mercury 0°.5 S.
Saturn in quadrature, 4 p.m.

4 Spring commences, *Lih-ch'ün* 立春 (Chinese Calendar).

5 Moon in apogee, 2.9 a.m.

9 Full moon ○, 5.36 a.m.
Partial eclipse of moon, visible in China. The phenomena may be observed at Shanghai according to local standard time of the China coast as follows:—
Enters penumbra China 2.48a.m.
,, shadow ,, 4.8 a.m.
Middle of eclipse ,, 5.41 a.m.
Leaves shadow ,, 8.15 a.m.
,, penumbra ,, 8.35 a.m.
Magnitude of eclipse 0.735, or about ¾ of the moon's diameter, a small portion of the upper segment being unobscured.
Occultation of Regulus, in Leo, 11.2 p.m.

10 Neptune in opposition with the sun. Distance from our earth 2,704,160,000 miles.

15 Saturn in conjunction with moon, 6 p.m. Saturn 3°.0 S.

16 Last quarter (moon) ☾, 5.27 p.m.

19 Meteoric showers in the Leonids, lasting till end of month.

20 Sun enters Pisces, 11.35 a.m.
Jupiter in conjunction with the moon, midnight Jupiter 2°.6 S.
Rainy weather commences, *Yu-shui* 雨水 (Chinese Calendar).

21 Moon in perigee, 2.8 a.m.

22 Venus in conjunction with moon, 7 a.m. Venus 0°.7 S.

23 New moon ●, 9.57 a.m.
Saturn stationary in the heavens, 1 a.m.
Mercury in conjunction with moon, 7 p.m. Mercury 1°.3 S.

28 Mars in conjunction with moon, ncon-Mars 6°.0 N.

Phases of the Moon

	Day.	Hour.	
First quarter	☽ 1	0.29 a.m	Peking time
Full moon	○ 9	5.35 a.m.	
Last quarter	☾ 16	5.27 p.m.	
New moon	● 23	9.57 a.m.	
Moon in apogee	5	2. 9 a.m.	
,, perigee	21	2. 8 a.m.	

In February the moon passes through the following constellations, Taurus, Orion, Leo, Virgo and Libra. Its mean distance from the earth is about 239,000 miles, its diameter 2,160 miles, and its rate of motion through space a little over 13° per day. The average time from one new moon to another is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 3 seconds. A solar eclipse can take place only at new moon, and lunar eclipses only at full moon.

Rising and Setting of the Sun at intervals of 5 days.

Sun

	Rises	Sets
1	6.54 a.m.	5.34 p.m.
5	6.52 a.m.	5.37 p.m.
10	6.48 a.m.	5.41 p.m.
15	6.43 a.m.	5.46 p.m.
20	6.38 a.m.	5.50 p.m.
25	6.33 a.m.	5.54 p.m.

In this month, reckoning to the 25th, the mornings increase 21 minutes, and the afternoons 20, making a total for the month of 41 minutes.

Aspects of the Principal Planets

MERCURY.—A morning star in the early part of the month; approaching superior conjunction with the sun towards the end. In conjunction with Venus on the 3rd; with moon on the 23rd.
Rises on 1st at 5.44 a.m.; on the 8th at 5.56 a.m.

VENUS.—A morning star crossing Sagittarius, and moving into Capicornus. Visible about one hour before sunrise, but waning in brightness as it approaches the sun. In conjunction with Mercury on 3rd; with moon on 22nd.
Rises on 1st at 5.43 a.m.; on 15th at 5.52 a.m.

MARS.—An early evening star in Aries, visible till a short time before midnight. In conjunction with moon on 28th.
Souths on 1st at 4.56 p.m.; sets at 11.26 p.m.
Souths on 15th at 4.35 p.m.; sets at 11.14 p.m.

JUPITER.—A morning star in Sagittarius, rising 2 hours before the sun, and increasing in brightness, approaching nearly to that of Sirius. In conjunction with moon on 20th.
Rises on 1st at 4.58 a.m.; on 15th at 4.14 a.m.

SATURN.—A morning star in Libra, rising before midnight at the end of the month. In quadrature on 3rd; in conjunction with moon on 15th; stationary on 23rd.
Rises on 1st at 0.37 a.m.; on 15th at 11.41 p.m.

The Planets and the Signs

Venus, a late morning star during this month, and growing more and more dim, moves into Capricornus and approaches the sun; Mars is in Aries, moving away from our earth, and decreasing in brilliancy; Jupiter becomes a morning star in this month, and may be observed in Sagittarius; Saturn is in Libra, and visible during the second half of the night.

Sirius, a Double Star

Sirius, the bright star of the first magnitude, South-East of the constellation Orion, passes on the meridian at 9 p.m.; and may be well observed during this month. Sirius is a giant star, over a thousand times larger than our great luminary. It has a small companion or satellite of the 10th magnitude beside it, at a distance only of 7." This satellite revolves round the parent star in 49 years. The light of Sirius takes more than 8 years to reach our earth.

Eclipse of the Moon

A partial eclipse of the moon will take place on the morning of the 9th, and may be observed in its total phase at Shanghai. The moon passes on the meridian (120° East of Greenwich) 4 minutes after midnight, and sets in the West at 6.53 a.m. The phenomenon commences at 2.48 a.m., the middle of the eclipse taking place at 5.41 a.m., or 1 hour and 8 minutes before sunrise. The gradual withdrawal of the shadow may be then followed till about 7 a.m., when the Queen of the Night dips beneath the horizon and disappears from our gaze.

THE CROSS WORD PUZZLE

The Swastika

This puzzle is rather more difficult than the average, but (says, its author), "There is no word that cannot be found in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1922 edition, or the Encyclopoedia Britannica, *via* the index used intelligently."

For the benefit of beginners in construction, we give a set of rules recently published in an American paper with the object of standardizing cross-word puzzles:

1—The puzzle must have an all over interlock.

2—One out of every six spaces may be black (approximately).

3—No more than one unkeyed letter in 10 may be used (approximately).

4—The puzzle must be symetrical in design.

Obsolete words may be used in moderation if plainly indicated.

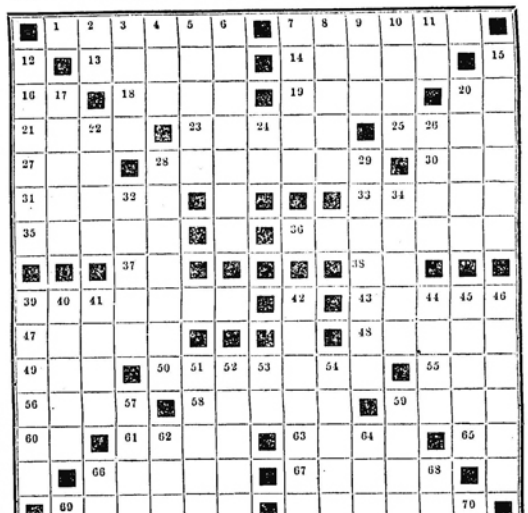
Any word indicated in any standard English dictionary is permissible.

Technical words may be used, providing they are so marked.

Abbreviations are usable if familiar and in current use, and if plainly marked.

Foreign words may be used if reasonably familiar and marked with the country of origin.

Trick definitions are not permissible.



HORIZONTAL

1 Country visited by Marco Polo.
7 Provision vendor who follows an army.
13 City in Tibet.
14 Manifest.
16 For example, (ab.)
18 A particle.
19 Diminutive suffix.
20 Tibetan measure.
21 Stomach of an animal
23 River in India
25 Become weaker
27 A drinking cup
28 A Chinese toy.
30 Prefix denoting before
31 A perfume from flowers
33 Province of India
35 Indigent
36 Bird of the heron family
37 Aloft
38 Forward
39 The book of Psalms
43 Liliaceous plant
47 Island of West Indies
48 Desist
49 Postal delivery term (ab.) (American)
50 Garment worn by clergy
55 Prefix signifying wrong
56 A plane surface
58 A relative
59 Encourage
60 Rare metallic element, (ab.)
61 Part of the body
63 Persia
65 A measure, (ab.)
66 Produce
67 Asiatic kingdom
69 Bird of the snipe family
70 Social standing

VERTICAL

2 Light metallic element, (ab.)
3 Grow genial
4 Head covering
5 Famous Buddist emperor of India
6 River in Brazil
7 Spire
8 Radical
9 To make a kind of lace
10 Willing
11 Half an em.
12 Territory in India
15 Melancholy
17 Irritate
20 Tribe of the Tunguses
22 A stake
24 Unit of weight, (ab.)
26 Projecting part of a building
28 Pertaining to a kind of enzyme
29 Implement for digging
32 Matured
34 Unit of weight, (Brit.)
39 Short expression
40 River in Arabia
41 Military officer,—assistant
42 Pertaining to seals
44 Verse foot
45 Rod used in basketry
46 King of Pylus, (Myth.)
51 Kind of seed
52 Tendon
53 Non metallic element, (ab.)
54 Goddess of growing vegetation
57 Having wings
59 Islets of Paumotu Archipelago
62 Lubricate
64 Expert
66 A rare metal, (ab.)
68 Commissioned army officer, (ab.)

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THE BOOK PAGE

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Lloyd George is busy on his important book about the War, and it is likely to be published shortly.

* * *

At a recent sale in New York the following Stevenson letter, dated 1885, sold for £100:—

"I know what should be put on my tomb: Died of the Neglect of his Correspondence and Consequent Conscienitis."

* * *

"The Divine Law," by E. Barrington, the love-story of Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson, which is already in its ninth edition in America, is to be published by Messrs. Harrap.

* * *

Dr. W. A. Craigie, one of the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary, is going to America to assist in the preparation of a "Dictionary of American English," which is being done with the backing of the Chicago University.

* * *

It is understood that another volume of short stories by Joseph Conrad will be forthcoming shortly. "Tales of Hearsay" is suggested as the title.

* * *

A leading Aberdeen newspaper was sadly misled recently. On November 5, it published an account of an incognito visit to the granite city by Mr. Sinclair Lewis, author of "Main Street." On November 18, it had to announce the conviction for fraud of John Simpson Mitchell, known as "The Monocle Man." It was Mitchell who had posed as the famous American author.

* * *

The response to the appeal by a Dublin paper for an Irish National Anthem was poor indeed, and no prize was awarded. Mr. W. B. Yeats, one of the judges, suggests that the efforts were but a pale shadow of the British National Anthem.

* * *

A memorial to O. Henry is to be established at his birthplace, Asheville, North Carolina. It is to take the form of an O. Henry Library and will house all the O. Henry MSS. that can be found.

* * *

More and more expensive books are being published. One of the most gorgeous is an edition of Spenser's "Faerie Queene," of which the binding is so exquisite that the volume lies in a green case, covered with silk, the cases being lined with swansdown!

* * *

The "Strand Magazine" promises its readers a new series of Sherlock Holmes stories and a group of tales by Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

* * *

"The Autobiography of a Crook," by Netley Lucas, is the type of book which gives the publisher pause, but a prompt reading of the manuscript and an interview with the crook himself, by Messrs. Fisher Unwin's representative, set any doubts at rest in a moment. Here is a real human document. Netley Lucas is a young man of aristocratic birth, with a public school education, who began a life of crime at the age of fourteen. To-day he is only 21, and so this book gives seven years of his life of crime.

* * *

"The Glory Hole" (Hodder and Stoughton, 7s. 6d.) is the name given by workmen to the small hole through which they look into the interior of a furnace. Mr. Stewart Edward White looks through an imaginary glory hole into the furnace that is a small American city in the early' nineties and reconstructs the social life. The theme of the novel is wealth on the grand scale. Into the primitive social world of Little Falls comes Ezekiel Kirby, an old man possessed of 12 million dollars and a marvellous worldly knowledge. He is a great gentleman; and a really great character, vividly portrayed. His search for an heir who shall be worthy of the great inheritance forms the body of the story. After all his efforts at selection he dies intestate because at the moment of his murder he succeeds in burning his will. The story moves slowly, almost ponderously, but the characters are interesting and convincing.

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

THE THREE OF CLUBS. By Valentine Williams. 7s. 6d. (Hodder & Stoughton).

Mr. Valentine Williams delivers the goods. Though we expect much in the way of excitement from the author of "The Man With the Clubfoot" and "The Orange Divan," perhaps an even better tale, it would be almost impossible to imagine a more thrilling story than his latest. Like the "Clubfoot" books, it is an international spy story, but here, running parallel and interwoven with the succession of dramatic episodes, there is a love-story between no mere puppets but a real human man on the one hand and, on the other, two live women, opposites in almost everything, and most skilfully contrasted. Virginia Fitzgerald is a delightfully-drawn study of the best type of modern girl, and Valerie, a more tragic figure, quite a new type in fiction and a deft study both as a woman and a somewhat pathetic product of an era nearly gone. Permeating this far-flung drama of intrigue, secrecy, violence and sinister purposes centring round the extraordinary Count Gellert, is the authentic atmosphere of European courts, cabinets and capitals created by a man whose journalistic adventures have made him long since at home in all of them.

WHEN THE FOREIGNER ARRIVED

An Interesting Story of Mission Pioneers

TWO PIONEERS—Life Sketch of Thomas and Mark Botham by Mrs. Mark Botham—China Inland Mission—price 2/-

The life stories of Thomas and Mark Botham, father and son, are simply but strikingly told in the "Two Pioneers" which gives a remarkably vivid picture of missionary activities in far away Kansu, especially in the earlier days of foreign settlement in China.

"Then as now," writes Mrs. Botham, "the 'foreign devil' was an unwelcome intruder and a disturber of the immemorial peace of China's splendid isolation. Forty years ago he was a poisoner of wells, a gouger-out of hearts and eyes for the manufacture of drugs, a wizard who bewitched those who drank his tea into embracing his doctrine, a danger to the community, which it was the duty of all right-minded persons to harass and expel."

The hardships which these pioneer missionaries of the China Inland Mission were called upon to endure are indeed a revelation to those of us who associate with China the comforts of Treaty Port life. By nature of their locality and itinerary life even the barest necessities were denied. "At one inn," we read, "where Mr. and Mrs. Botham stayed, no room was available except a loft; there was not even a *kang* (brick bed or platform). The curiosity of the natives was amazing. "As they travelled about the people often speculated as to what reason these strangers had for coming among them. The missionaries would be asked what form of disaster in their own land had driven them away. Sometimes the people thought they were refugees being passed from place to place by the officials and the simplicity of their way of life was taken as an indication of their poverty."

The story of Mark Botham is also that of a pioneer though in a rather different sphere. Following the footsteps of his father in the China Inland Mission, he set out to a life work in the evangelization of the Moslems of China. His knowledge of their customs and language was only the outcome of diligent study of their religion and close personal observation of their life. "He was a pioneer," writes Mrs. Botham, "in his own field and had to make his own experience; books on work among Moslems in other lands were useful but only partly applicable."

The work among these curious people in Kansu was one which required the highest degree of tact and consideration. Living among them and conforming to many of their customs it was essential that they should not realize at once the true nature of his mission.

Yet we cannot doubt that his work was unaccompanied by a very deep impression made the Chinese Moslems in Kansu. Mrs. Botham tells us that as he travelled around the province he found that his name was known in quite distant places. "Certainly," the writer adds, "he must have been a strange enigma to many of them."

There are many very interesting facts in this book concerning the ways and practices of Chinese Moslems, a subject comparatively unknown. Their position in China as strangers commends them especially to foreigners. Universally they are disliked by the Chinese in virtue of their difference of race and in Kansu by nature of their numbers they are greatly feared.

It is interesting to note that their attitude towards Christianity until recent and more enlightened years has been to regard it as an insignificant institution of the past and long since superseded by Islam.

ANATOMY OF A "BEST SELLER"

Ethel Dell's New Novel

BY LYDIA LANGUISH

What precisely is the volatile essence which makes one book go from edition to edition whilst another (its equal on all obvious points) must struggle to obtain a footing on the library list to the extent of a miserable thousand or so?

With a desire to solve the problem I took up Miss Ethel M. Dell's latest success, "The Unknown Quantity" (Hutchinson, 7s. 6d.), and beguiled therewith the tedium of a wet afternoon. A most attractive lady adorns the "jacket," presumably the heroine with the "darling wild-bird eyes" which play such havoc with the hearts of men. But the most interesting feature of the cover is the announcement that previous works by this author, "Bars of Iron" and "The Hundredth Chance," have reached their 328th thousand and 280th thousand respectively.

"Coo!" as Wilfred would say.

In the face of such figures criticism seems futile, almost an impertinence. Best sellers in every age have worked on lines of their own, and Miss Dell is no exception to the rule. She troubles little about the probabilities of life or the analysis of character. The fetishes of the critic fall in heaps before her. But she does create an atmosphere, highly coloured and foreign to most experience, but cheerful withal, in which her Lady Varleighs, her "Bucks" and "Skittles" definitely move and get things done. She tells a story of emotion and action in English only a little more flamboyant than the average. She possesses, briefly, that power of narrative and description which made the novel-reading public of 1,790 or thereabouts revel in Ann Radcliffe's tales of haunted castles, mouldering bodies, wicked friars, and romantic nuns.

The plot of "The Unknown Quantity" is best quoted from its own "jacket":—

It is the story of a girl who, through no fault of her own, is precipitated from a high position in Society to one of humiliation and destitution. In her extremity two friends alone are left to her: one an elderly woman with all the will to help but none of the power, the other a man for whose persistent devotion she has never felt anything but contempt. Her struggle against adversity and her final realization of the fact that beneath all loss and failure the greatest gift of all may be hidden lead her at last to those better things beside which all earthly treasure is less than nothing.

Here, then, are some of the principal ingredients of a best seller: *An exalted social sphere.* This has always been indispensable. Do not Marcheses, Counts, Barons jostle each other in Mrs. Radcliffe's pages? Even Ouida, that poet without judgment, couldn't resist her Guardsmen wringing the amber wine from tawny moustaches! "East Lynne" would have been less poignant had Lady Isabel been a plain Miss.

Strong human interest including, of course, sexual love. This applies equally to Literature, to all great Art, in fact; but in the "best seller" two details are imperative: namely, a perfectly pure heroine and a happy ending.

A dash of religious feeling. It may be a mere suggestion or a main current as in "The Rosary," but it will be there.

Sincerity. Let not the cynic suppose that a popular success may be thus lightly compounded with the tongue in the cheek.

Like Mrs. Radcliffe, Miss Dell takes her characters and their joys and sorrows seriously. Otherwise the "punch" would be lacking from such episodes as this:—

She gasped with pain. "Oh, God," she said, "deliver me from this madman!"

He increased his pressure with devilish ingenuity. "You refuse?" he hissed.

She felt her balance going, and grasped him to save herself.

He took it for a sign of yielding. Her touch inflamed him. "Ah!" he said, exultantly. "I thought you would come to your senses. Little fire-eater, I knew I could conquer you. Leave her to me—that is what I said. I have never yet met the woman I could not tame.'

He pulled her back on to her feet and held her suffocatingly in his arms. "But you are too lovely to hurt!" he said.

Jeannette fought him then wildly, frantically, as she would have fought a serpent. Her hair broke loose from the fillet about her head and flung hither and thither in tossing strands. And when with deadly strength he bore down her resistance, she sought to pull it over her face to save it from the pollution of his lips.

No cry escaped her in that desperate struggle. Her whole being was concentrated upon freeing herself. It must be either escape or death with her, for she would never cry for mercy, nor would she ever yield while life remained.

In the end, as her strength became exhausted, a mist came over her senses, but she still struggled on till unutterable weakness overcame her. And then there came a hard, insistent knocking which she thought must be the last beats of her failing heart. . . .

Of course it was the hero:—

. . . the tame fool who had run so patiently at her chariot wheels for so long. His face had wholly lost its ordinary look. He wore a smile, indeed, but such a smile as she had never connected with him before. And there burned in his grey eyes a flare that was somehow terrible.

There it is, you see—the true Dell atmosphere. Nothing in the least like Monday morning about it.

Is that, perhaps, the secret?

MODERN EAST AND IMMEMORIAL WEST

A Valuable Work

WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND THE FAR EAST. By Stephen King-Hall (Methuen and Co., Ld., 15s.)

Although a review of Mr. King-Hall's book has already appeared in these columns, in view of its special interest we give the following notice of the volume which appeared in the "Spectator."

Almost—but, alas! not quite—Mr. King-Hall has written a really important book. Even as it is his book is of great value. But what a treasure it might have been! How invaluable would be a comprehensive, sensible, unbiased account of the impact of Western Civilization on the East. And what assets Mr. King-Hall had for the writing of such a book! He is sensitive enough to notice not only that Chinese are different from Europeans, but also that some Chinese are different from others; as, indeed, Chinese travellers have found that Europeans differ amongst themselves. Observant enough to notice the awakening of a continent (not, one supposes, a necessarily easy thing to notice—like some names on the map, it may be written too big to be seen); independent enough to conclude that the "immemorial East" is at the moment about five years old, having started a wholly new and rapidly accelerating movement in an unknown direction in about the year 1919; irritable enough to say that all the judgments of Kipling-fed merchants who have lived in treaty ports for 40 years are, *ex hypothesi*, worthless, since they all refer to a condition of things which no longer exists except in their own imagination. And yet at the same time no crank, but a practical, hearty, beef-eating Britisher! It all sounds too good to be true. This must be the perfect book on East and West that the world needs so badly. But, alas! for human aspirations, there was one thing lacking in Mr. King-Hall. In spite of all these magnificent qualifications for writing this particular book he lacked one essential qualification—the ability to write a book at all. Now, writing any book is not as easy as shelling peas, and to write as big and ambitious a book as this one is, merely from a technical point of view, a task of the very greatest difficulty. Unfortunately, though perhaps inevitably, people do not consider book construction a craft which needs learning like any other craft. The only school is experience, but the first lesson, even in that school, should surely be a comparatively short and unambitious one. Unhappily Mr. King-Hall had to write this, his first, book on an extremely ambitious scale. We perfectly understand that the scale was necessary if the subject was to be dealt with comprehensively. But the result is, frankly, chaos. The book is arranged neither chronologically nor by subject. We leap from century to century—from China to Japan, from Religion to Railway Statistics. Even within the chapters themselves there is no order; a chapter will be headed innocently enough, "Domestic Politics in Japan." The first 20 pages will turn out to be a discussion on a modern state religion; the middle 20 a conscientious account of party fluctuations from year to year; and the end will often cover the same ground again as the middle or the beginning, from a different point of view.

Thus it must be admitted that the book is an extremely difficult one to read. There is no central theme running through it, no thesis on which the facts can be hung, so that a coherent whole is constructed. These are the book's faults, and they are grievous. But we must put up with them as best we can, because, in spite of them all, this is the best book we have on the subject. Indeed, except for Mr. Bertrand Russell's admirable "Modern China," which deals, it is true, with the same subject on roughly the same lines, but which is much shorter and slighter and is now two years old, there is no other book that we know of written from an even reasonably modern point of view on the situation as it is today in the Far East.

On Japan especially Mr. King-Hall is much fuller and more complete than Mr. Bertrand Russell. His main point is an interesting one. Japan, by the most amazing experiment in artificial nation-building that the world has ever seen, has been turned in 60 years from a feudal state of the Middle Ages into a first-class aggressive modern Power, armed to the teeth, equipped with all the weapons of modern diplomacy from poison gas to a ready-made philosophy of *réal politique*. This process reached its completion, Mr. King-Hall says, at the end of the Great War. At Paris, Japan had arrived. Her representatives sat in solemn judgment, together with the Allies, over the prostrate bodies of two of the great White Empires, from one of which she had learned her own military system. But irony intervened in the person of President Wilson. Just when Japan had grasped the principles, or rather the want of principles, of statecraft; had learned that in international affairs Might was on every occasion Right; that the countries of the world lived in that "state of nature" in which the devil did in fact with unerring precision take the hindermost—just as she had learned all this, in came President Wilson with an entirely new set of rules for the great game. The reign of law was to be established—the League of Nations was actually established—international good will, not shining swords, was in future to regulate the affairs of men. It was all very baffling to the new Power that had just learned the opposite lessons, and Mr. Stephen King-Hall seems to think that Japan is finding some difficulty in adjusting herself to this new point of view. Like all arrivistes, she is anxious to live up to her international company, but the fashions seem to change bewilderingly quickly! There may be a good deal in this, but we cannot help feeling that Mr. King-Hall exaggerates the difficulty for Japan. Surely her own lessons of *réal politique* in international affairs will still stand her in very good stead, unless it be that our hopes and not our fears about the League of Nations are, after all, to the fulfilled.

E. J. S.

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THE WOMAN'S PAGE

THE PERFECT LADY 1850-1925

Clothes Look Different but Manners have Altered Even More

BY ELIZABETH PEPYS

The Woman's Page of the "N.-C. D. N." along with periodicals such as "Eve" and "Vogue," has a pedigree reaching further back than we sometimes imagine. Looking through stray numbers of "Godey's Lady's Book" published in 1850 and 1867 we find that belles of those days found their tastes in dress and adornment as carefully catered to by the publisher then as now.

Human nature changes its clothes but not its substance. In May 1850 we find a sprightly chit-chat upon Philadelphia spring fashions with special application to the local shops and the same comfortable *cliché* which has helped the editor of this page out of so many difficulties—"The variety of fabrics is so great that we scarcely know how to catalogue and describe the." Dear old friend, how touching it is to reflect that the phrase was current in 1850 and that nothing has been found to take its place.

The Popular Fabrics

At that time chintzes for school-dresses, mousselines de laine, lawns, barèges, Crape (sic) de Paris and Nankin and Mantua silks were in the height of style. "The bizarre style, in figure and colour, will be left to secluded hamlets, and those people found in all cities who are innately vulgar in air and taste." Could as much be said to-day? At that time we learn that "the waist cannot be too long from the arm to the belt: but the length is not increased at the bodice." Fashions are only merry-go-rounds after all. The scarf had been worn in the preceding season but the mantilla

THE PROMENADE SUIT

What would the Lady's Book think of our knicker costumes?

was the favoured adornment and worsted lace was used with it.

"Steel Fashion Plates" illustrated the modes section of the book and careful directions are given for duplicating their patterns. The musical department has since left the confines of the Lady's Book for its own more specialized publications, but at this time the newest compositions were listed, inquiries were answered, and one or two vocal and instrumental selections appeared in each issue. Book reviews, too, were not forgotten, and advertisements of thrilling "nouvelettes," abound, as well as notices of the "Saturday Evening Post," which is said to "contain much original matter of a solid and profitable character!"

"The Ladies' Clubs"

The editorial in this issue is concerned with the National Popular Education Society and its use of "female teachers," 152 of whom had left New England to pioneer in the schools of Ohio. Woman's sphere was properly to teach the young and that was her office and mission. Further editorial comment is made upon "The Union," and we read "while the ocean of political life is heaving and raging with the storm of partisan passions among the men, the true conservators of peace and good-will, the women, should be careful to cultivate every gentle feeling and give prominence to every noble exhibition of patriotism. Such was the spirit of the poem lately (sic) written by H. W. Longfellow, 'The Ship of State.'"

Of ladies'—never women's—clubs we hear that they are increasing all over our land. "We shall soon have a select circle of friends in every village and town, where the Lady's Book will be the centre of attraction. It is very pleasant to feel that in thus drawing the minds

THE IRENE JACKET

We feel sure that Irene and her ladylike friends would deplore modern modes

and hearts of our readers towards the same moral truths, we are strengthening the bonds of our national Union, which, next to our faith in God, should be our most cherished sentiment."

A flattering belief in the wide range of women's interests is shown in the picture and architects scale drawing of a model cottage. Opposite is the pattern for a new crocheted reticule, and pictures of capes and caps remind us that there was a time when it could be said that "as dresses made low in the neck still continue to be somewhat worn, none except very young ladies can dispense with the cape." These capes were shoulder affairs of lace and lawn, more like the kerchiefs, which were also worn. Caps for breakfast, morning and dinner or evening parties are pictured in varying degrees of elegance.

High Moral Tone

"Religious Influences in the Country" shows that the spiritual uplift

THE NEW OPERA COSTUME

Godey's for 1850

of the female mind was not neglected, and indeed the moral influence of the stories and serials cannot be overestimated. Feminine foibles are flayed through the frivolous characters in these moral tales and virtue, though often suffering, is finally suitably rewarded. Poetry in the form of sonnets, rhyming couplets and descriptive poems flourishes and the general illustrations include biblical scenes and such sketches as "Preparing for the May Party."

Jumping to the issues of 1867 we find that the general character remains the same but there are important innovations such a shopping bureau, which undertakes to execute commissions with economy as well as taste. "Answers to Correspondent" also makes its appearance, though not under that caption, and gardening is taken up. A Juvenile Department tells how to furnish a doll's house with cardboard toys, "fillers" pass on the best stories of the day, the bold bad kitten who to his Mother said "I'll never more be good," appears as a novelty, Health Hints, too, are introduced and cookery recipes flourish.

SMART RIDING COSTUMES OF 1850

Godey's Lady's Book

For a moment we feel that nothing has changed, that the years have altered the expression, but not the thought; but there are some landmarks by which to mark progress. In October 1867 the editor wrote under the heading: "Ought American Women to have the Right of Suffrage?" admitting the rights of women to education, and even to the study and practice of medical science, "so far as her own sex and children are concerned," but deploring the thought of equal suffrage. "Would it be better if the sex was admitted to participate directly in the administration of government, voting and holding offices equally with men? No—I reply unhesitatingly, no! Besides, American women have the controlling power over their homes, their children, and social life: it is but just that men should enjoy a separate theatre for the cultivation and display of their own talents and virtues." Also, for the men of 1925, who have no "sphere" they may call their exclusive own!

WHAT SHALL WE WEAR TO BE SMART

"And Both were Young, and one was Beautiful"

BY ELIZABETH PEPYS

Byron, that keen observer of women, would doubtless write to-day "And both were beautiful, but one had chic." Prettiness is somewhat at a discount to-day, although let "Vogue" rave as it will, it can never be accounted a handicap to any woman. Still, it is undeniably smart to be simple just now, and even if furbelows and fluffy frills are the desire of one's heart, it will be well to restrain one's passion for decoration so far as possible.

"Power through repose," is a slogan with merit and "Distinction through discarding," is another not so bad. If there is a single bit of jewelry, of ornamentation, of floridness that is not essential, out with it! A bas le furbelow! Down with frills! Confess to a penchant for murder, to a craving for garlic, to secret aspirations to house-breaking, but never to a passion for mere prettiness!

Style Martyrs

Women can certainly qualify for the martyr's crown more easily than can men. What man would sacrifice a becoming coiffure of curls for a sleek, mouselike shingle? Or if he did, the feminine world would understand that he did it merely because he didn't happen to like curls anyway. But to like a thing and then deny oneself the boon, that is the stuff from which heroines are fashioned!

Not that the models of the moment are unlovable by any means. They have their individual appeal, and certainly they are restrained to the point of restfulness. The general silhouette continues pencil-like, but there are some details of prodigious significance. For example, the newest tucks are turned upward, not downward. Almost a revolution in the tuck world, one might justly observe. And while we have noted that a good many coats are opening in back instead of in front, it is rather an amusing novelty, now isn't it?

The new hair ornaments, too, are a pleasing variation. One of them, which is adaptable to short or long hair fits across the back of the head and ends in large diamond loops on either side, giving the effect of hairpins. And the saucy shingle is dignified with nothing less than a diamond bandeau, designed by Cartier and worn by Miss Carlotta Monterey. In style it suggests the Russian headdress, narrowing to a slim line in back and fastened with a simple catch.

Capes for the Evening

The vogue for wearing evening coats and capes right into restaurant or theatre is undiminished and perhaps as a result some captivating models have been turned out. They are all fitted closely about the shoulders but the new feeling for movement which is beginning to creep into the mode, dictates fulness at the hem. One black velvet model is cut in pointed petals, trimmed with an ermine scarf collar and embroidered with two lines of embroidery in the red tone which lines the garment. Another cape is scalloped at the front around the feet, and shorter than the plain back. Zibeline makes the collars and five skins run from the shoulders down toward the hem.

"Eyes Front!" is surely the command this season, for almost all the trimming is placed at the front of the gowns, in aprons pleated or draped, tucks, godets and jabots. And speaking of jabots—the shops are full of them. They flare from the shoulder, they spring from the hip, they run from the neck to the knee, they ripple over aged forms, they babble round the flappers, as Tennyson might have said. Paris is a an ornament of dignity and on the whole, we care for it. Looking at the patterns the backs are so plain and straight as to suggest nothing so much as the wives of Noah and his sons in the ark. (Which reminds me, and we trust the digression will be forgiven, that we didn't see a single Noah's Ark among the Christmas toys. What are we coming to? The Sunday School Societies ought to get busy. What *do* children play with on Sunday nowadays?)

We are all buttoned up this season too, presumably because the button is a an ornament of dignity and reserve, as it were. Buttons always seem to have an excuse for being, even when they are patently unfastenable. For daytime wear the long sleeves seem to have it, but the instructions in the books say "Long or short as desired." How to be both warm and stylish as to our ankles these nipping days is a problem which has been solved by one enterprising manufacturer in patented three-quarters length hose, open at toes, heels and instep. They are made of sheer, thin flesh-colour wool and fit snugly under any silk stocking. So far as we know the actual hose haven't yet appeared in Shanghai, but the advertisement looks plausible.

THE BEAUTIFUL AGE

When is a woman at her most beautiful age?

"From 30 to 35" is the general answer, but a "Daily Express" representative found that men of note differ considerably in their opinion on the question.

"Whenever a woman's life is most harmonious and happy, then she has attained her full bloom, and is most beautiful," said Mr. Edmond Dulac, the artist. "Life is usually kindest to women between the age of 25 and 35, and then, as they are often at their happiest period, they are passing through the greatest stage of their beauty."

M. Nikita Balieff, of the Chauve Souris, said: "I agree with Balzac that woman is at her handsomest at 30, when she still remembers the fragrance of spring and already understands the beauty of the autumn."

Mr. Michael Arlen, author of "The Green Hat," said: "A woman is at her most beautiful at the age which suits her best, and that age is different with every woman."

Lord Headley, the Irish peer, who is a Mohammedan, stated:—

"The age at which a woman is most beautiful varies according to her disposition. Some girls of 20 are at their prettiest, and other women are loveliest when their black hair has turned white. Some girls are pretty when they are young, but environment affects their disposition, and in their unhappiness they lose their beauty early in life. There are plain girls who grow happier as they grow older, and then become beautiful.

"The eyes are the windows of the soul, and the woman who has a good

MISS 1925

disposition is likely to grow more beautiful as she grows old. The flapper type, who paint their cheeks and lips, never could be beautiful."

A SONG OF ST. ANNE

Our Lady in cold stable lay,
The Babe was pinched with cold;
St. Anne of Beaupré's clad like May
In the green silk and the gold.

Her cloak is set with glittering gem,
And sewn with pearls athread;
Too heavy her crusted diadem,
For one old Granny's head.

The priests they sing: the banners gleam,
The music swells and dies;
But she has gotten a golden dream,
Behind her painted eyes.

As she goes up, and she goes down
Within her dream she sees
Lord Jesus in a swaddling gown
Upon Our Lady's knees.

They fling her many a bough and bloom
And roses for her floor;
But she is seeing a hidden room,
And the sun in at the door.

The vines shake on the trellises
And the shadows on the wall;
The dove bidding a golden peace
To her girl, slender and tall.

The dreaming turns and shifts mayhap,
And O, the dream is blest!
A Child creeps to His Granny's lap;
His head lies on her breast.

She sings a sleepy song and low,
Such songs as women use
Rocking the small Thing to and fro,
In the dusk hour and the dews.

St. Anne of Beaupré blesses the ships,
She blesses the sea and land;
She feels the touch of a young child's lips,
And the rose-leaf of his hand.

KATHARINE TYNAN.

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